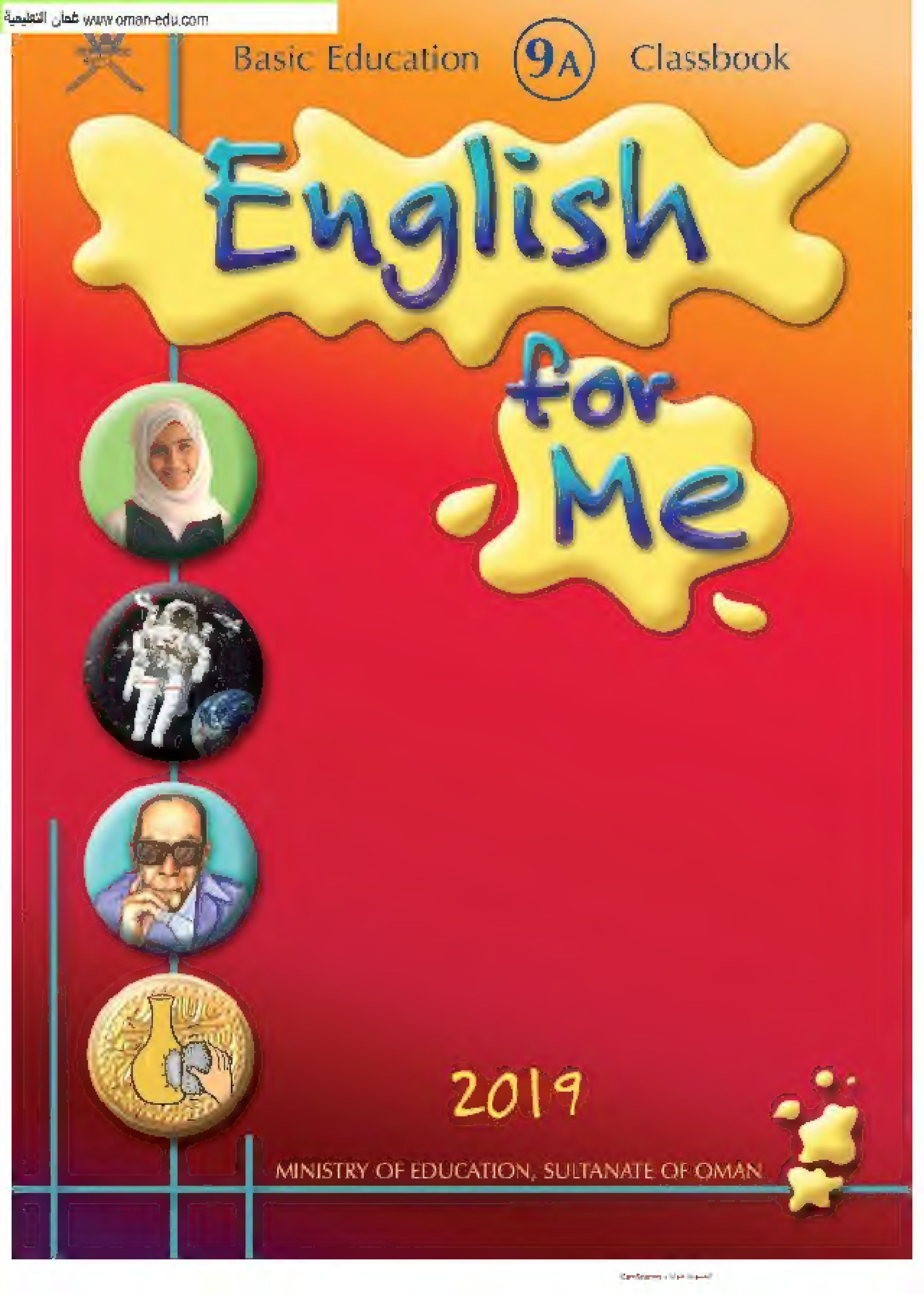
Basic Education
9A
Classbook
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Basic Education 9A Classbook

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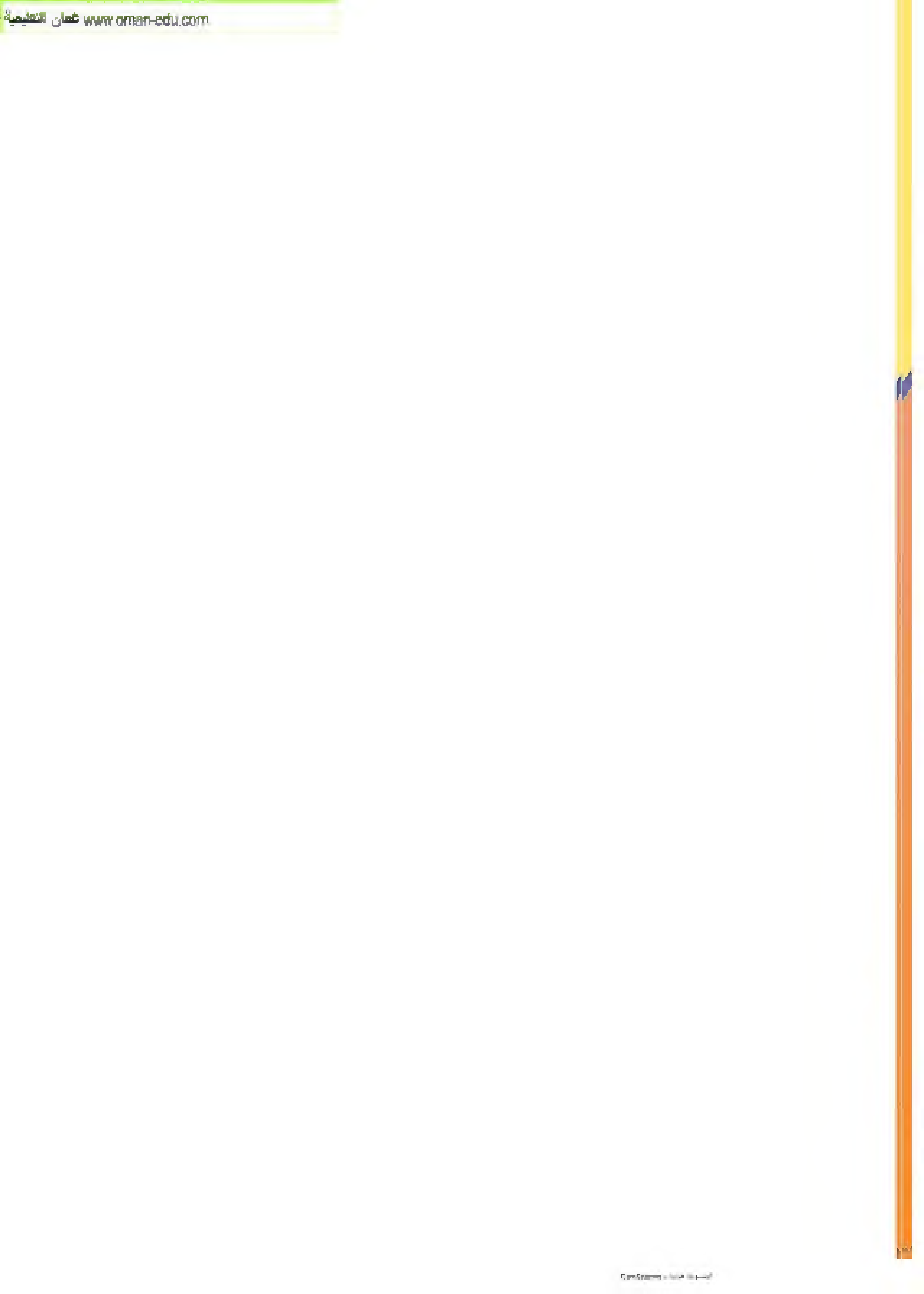
His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman



Welcome!

Dear Students,

Welcome to Grade 9! You will find lots of your favourite features from Grade 8 in your Grade 9 Classbook. The contents map is there to help you find out what topics and activities you are going to do and the skills and language you are going to learn this semester. You will also continue to learn about different people and cultures with the International Teenagers' Club, or ITC.

There are lots of activities to help you with speaking, listening and writing as well as grammar, spelling and sound work. Sometimes you will work on your own and sometimes you will work in groups.

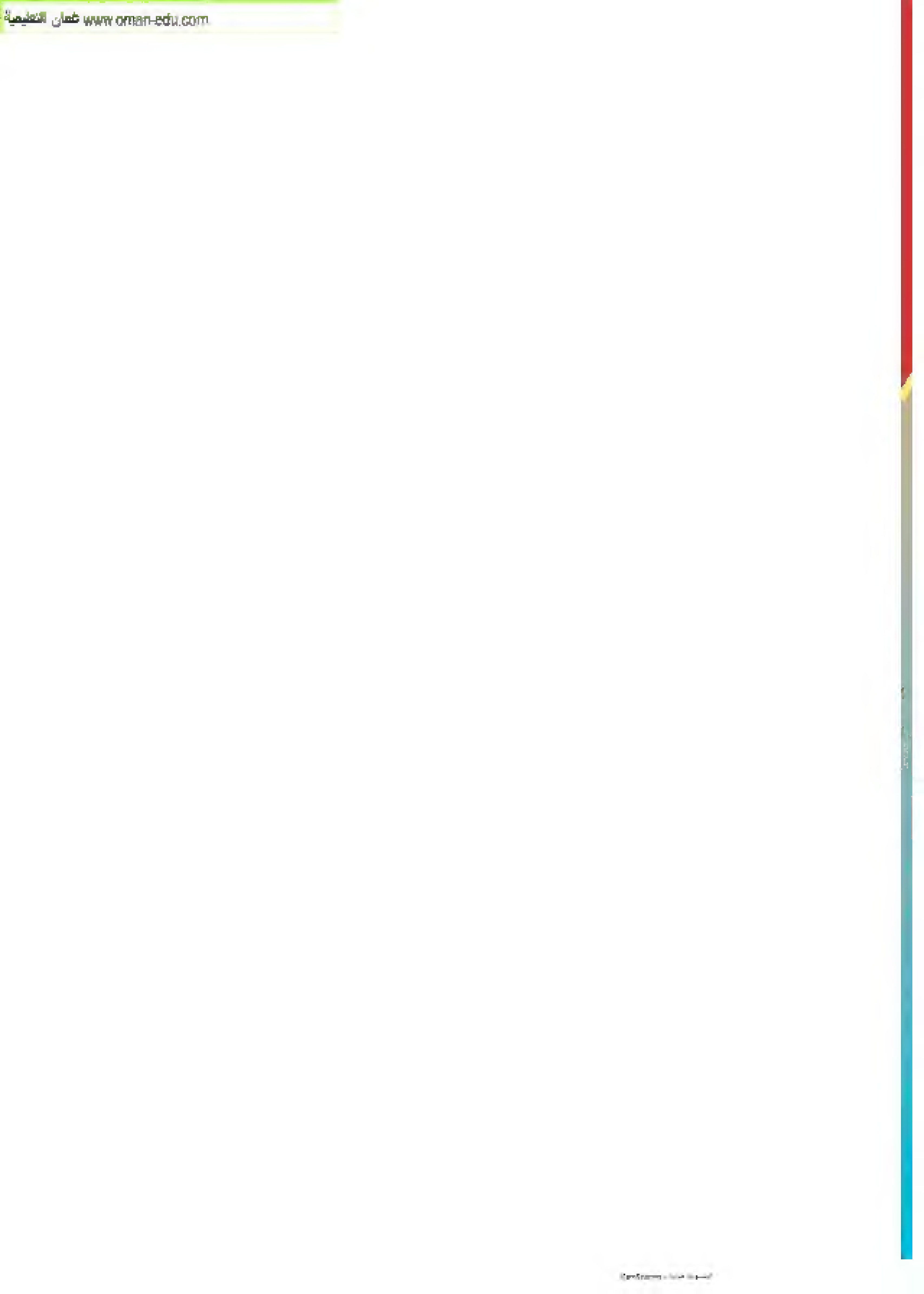
In the Skills Book, you will find that the cut-out and Learning Journal pages, the grammar reference, the phonetic wordlist and the answers to the self-study pages remain at the back of the book. However, you will notice that the grammar reference has got bigger and has new language items. You will also notice that the self study pages have been moved to the end of each unit to help you find the activities easily, so you can work on your own.

As well as working in your Skills Book, you will need an exercise book and a portfolio. The exercise book is useful for writing notes, drafts of written work, vocabulary and phrases you want to record. You should also keep a portfolio in Grade 9 to show how your work has developed during the semester.

Remember to look after your Classbook for students who will use it again next year. Be careful to keep your Skills Book in a safe place because it will be a useful reference for future work.

We hope that you enjoy learning English this year and use it as much as possible inside and outside the classroom.

Good luck and work hard!



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Contents

What's

	Topic	Language focus	Vocabulary
1	Teen Time	Possessive adjectives Possessive pronouns Possessive apostrophes Conjunctions Language of opinion Review of 8A and 8B Sounds /ɪ/ and /iː/	Activities Appearance Personality
2	Writers and Writing	Direct speech Relative clauses and pronouns Conjunctions Similes, alliteration, onomatopoeia Order of adjectives Sounds /θ/ and /ð/	Types of story Types of writing Speaking
3	Money	Past perfect Review of past simple and present perfect Review passives Review second conditional Sounds /ɒ/, /æ/ and /e/	Money Verbs Adjectives
4	Space	Adverbial clauses of time Reflexive pronouns Review comparatives and superlatives Sounds /s/ and /z/	Space Large numbers Measuring
Club Corner		Pronouns Relative clauses Adverbial clauses of time Conjunctions	Adjectives Space Money

in 9A?

Do a multiple choice
Write sentences about appearances, personality and interests
Read a photo story

Prepare and give an opinion on a subject
Write about a person
Do a survey
Write about a Top Teen

What do you remember about Grade 8?
Note taking styles
Teen Test

Read and understand poems

Do a chant
Read and write a newspaper report

Make a poster
Write about money

Word attack

Design an ... website about space

Do a quiz
Read a graph
Write questions, conduct interviews
Write a dialogue

Make a poster
Write a story

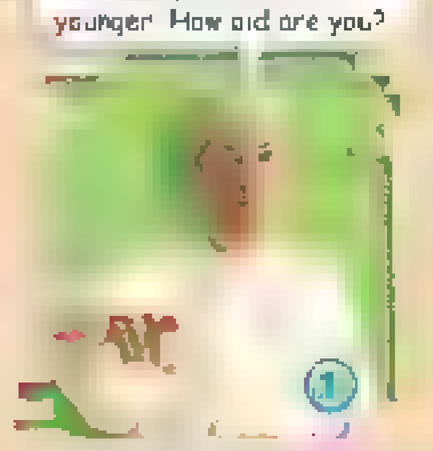
Review the semester
Complete the Learning Journal

English for Me

Unit 1

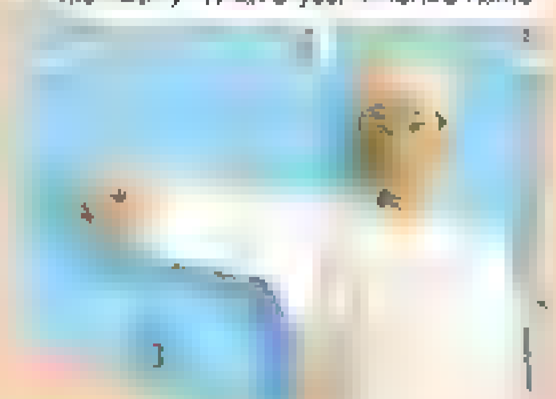
Welcome to Grade 9 ______ The first unit is all about teenagers or ______ Teens are young adults aged between ______ and 19. You'll find lots of useful information about teen life, teen interests and what teens ______ We'll also be learning more ______ for example, teamwork, opinion, drugs and exams. Then there's more language focus work on ______, apostrophes and conjunctions. There are also some ______ activities that you may find useful when talking with friends. Oh yes, I nearly forgot, we'll also spend some time ______ work from Grade 8. Enjoy yourselves!

Hi, I'm Zakaria. I'm from Oman and I live in Ibra. I'm 15, but my friend is a bit younger. How old are you?



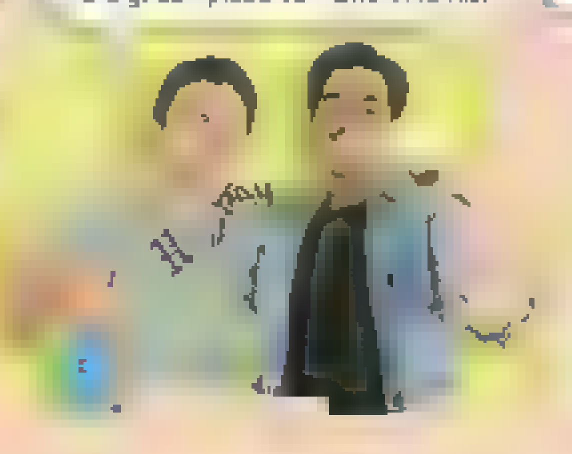
Hello. I'm Najma and I'm 13. I'm also from Oman, but I live in Sur. Zakaria is my brother's friend from the ITC.

How's it going? I'm Mustafa and I'm from Oman. I live in Sur with my family. My sister's name is Najma and my friend's name is Zakaria. He's a bit older than me. He lives in Ibra with his family. What's your friend's name?



What's up? I'm Susan. I'm from New York. My friend lives in Oman. Her name's Najma and her brother's name is Mustafa. They live in Sur. Where do you live?

We're Salim and Saleem. Our families are from Pakistan but now we live in London. We really enjoy making friends with teenagers from around the world. Have a look at the ITC website, it's a great place to make friends!



Hello. I'm Tom. I'm from Australia and I live in Melbourne. I met my friends Zakaria and Susan on the ITC website. You can find their friends on the ITC website too. Oh yes, I nearly forgot, what's your name?

angry attractive bald beautiful big blond boring brave careful

WHO I AM!

1 Read the following text and match the photos with the paragraphs. Write your answers in your exercise book.

Here's my life

When I'm not studying, I like ...

Well, that's me and my life so far ...

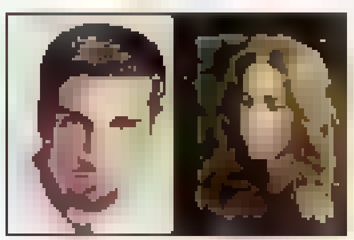
2 Read the following report and answer the focus questions in your exercise book.

WHO AM I?

What makes people different

By James Hornby

1 What makes people different can be seen in the way people look, what they wear, what they do and the way they behave.



2 It's true that we are all born with some features that make us all the same. However, it is also true that we all look different. Some people have black eyes, some have blue eyes, some people have long straight blond hair, and others have short black curly hair. Some people are short, some are tall, some are fat and some are thin.

3 Although we are born with these unique differences, some people try to change themselves by altering the length, colour or style of their hair. Some people also try to change their weight by dieting and controlling the food they eat. However, you can make yourself sick by not eating enough food.

4 People can also look different by choosing what to wear. Some people like to look neat

and tidy and wear smart, clean, bright coloured clothes. Others can look scruffy.

learning strategy

writing about a person

When you are going to write about yourself or other people, think about the following when planning.

Paragraph 1: introduce the person: their name, their age, where they were born, where they live, what work they do, what they like, what they do not like.

Paragraph 2: What the person looks like, what they like wearing, etc. Are they: neat, tidy, untidy, scruffy, clean, dirty.

Paragraph 3: What is the character or personality of the person? Are they: kind, happy, sad, helpful, unhelpful, clever.

Paragraph 4: What they like doing, what they do not like doing, what are their likes and dislikes.

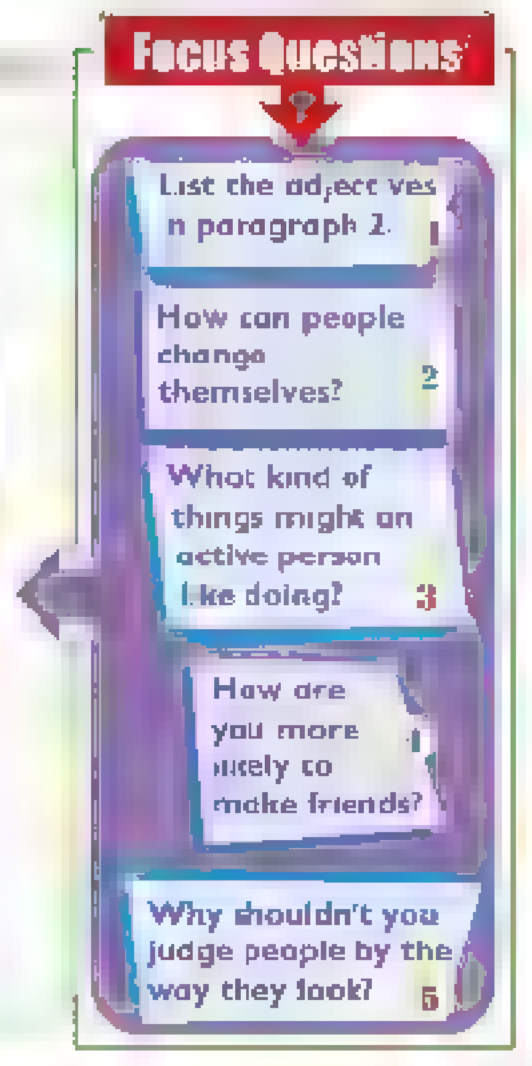
Paragraph 5: More information about their families, the people they know, and the things they have done.

Remember to use the Writing Route, check your spellings and check your punctuation.

and untidy. However, we have to be careful not just to judge people's personalities by the way they look.

5 Some people's personalities can be seen in what they do. Some people are full of energy and like being active and keeping busy. They may enjoy doing sports and meeting people. However, others are quiet and shy and may enjoy reading, writing or collecting things.

6 Finally, our personalities also show in the way we behave towards others. Being kind and helpful to others is more likely to get you friends than being unkind or angry. So, whoever you are, whatever you think of yourself, whatever you think of other people, remember that your personality says a lot about you.



Focus Questions

List the adjectives in paragraph 2. 1

How can people change themselves? 2

What kind of things might an active person like doing? 3

How are you more likely to make friends? 4

Why shouldn't you judge people by the way they look? 5

The Story of the Prophet Yusuf (Peace Be Upon Him)

1 Read and listen

Read the story, [illegible] then listen [illegible]. [illegible] sentences [illegible] the story. Decide which paragraph [illegible] and write your answer in your exercise book. You only need to write the number of the paragraph.

1 When the Prophet Yusuf (Peace Be Upon Him) was young, his father loved him very much and spent a lot of time with him. This made his eleven brothers very jealous. They felt so angry that they wanted to kill Yusuf (PBUH).

2 One night, Yusuf (PBUH) had a strange dream. He dreamed that the sun, the moon and eleven planets were bowing to him. He told his father the story. His father realised that the dream meant something very great for Yusuf (PBUH) but told him not to tell his brothers about it.

3 One day the brothers asked their father to let Yusuf (PBUH) go and play with them outside the village. The Prophet Yusuf's (PBUH) father was worried and told them that he was afraid that a wolf would eat Yusuf (PBUH). They insisted, so in the end he reluctantly agreed. However, the brothers had evil plans in mind.

4 The Prophet Yusuf's (PBUH) wicked brothers took Yusuf's (PBUH) shirt and threw him into a deep, dry well. They killed a goat and soaked the shirt in its blood. Then they returned home to tell their father that Yusuf (PBUH) had been eaten by a wolf.

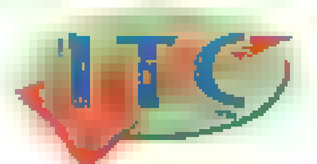
5 The following day, a trading caravan was looking for water in the well. They didn't find any water, but they rescued Yusuf (PBUH). They took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave to a nobleman, who was the Aziz of Egypt. The Aziz and his wife looked after the Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) like their own child. However, the Aziz's wife complained that Yusuf (PBUH) was behaving badly towards her. She was telling lies, but the Aziz sent Yusuf (PBUH) to prison.

6 Allah had blessed the Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) with the great gift of being able to tell what dreams meant. While he was in prison, he became very famous for telling people what their dreams meant. Then one day, the king of Egypt sent for the Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) to help explain a dream.

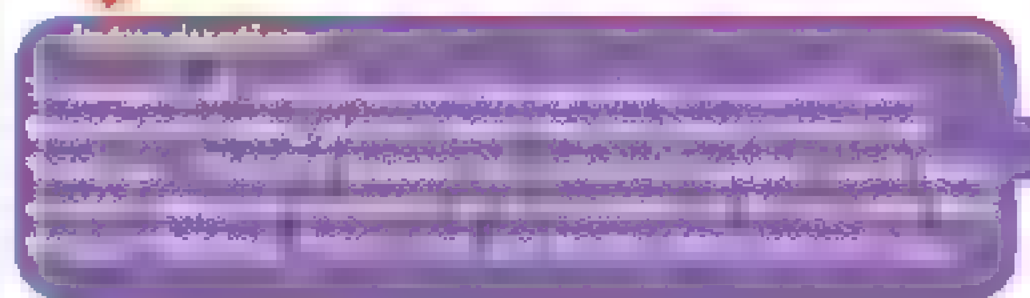
7 In his dream, the king saw seven thin cows eating seven fat cows and seven green ears of wheat and seven dry ears of wheat. The Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) told the king that there were going to be seven years with lots of food followed by seven years of famine, when there would be no food or water. He advised the king to store as much food as possible in the first seven years so that there would be enough food for the next seven years.

8 The King trusted the Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) and gave him the job of looking after the food stores in Egypt. When the years of famine finally came, there was enough food and water for people to live on. The Prophet Yusuf (PBUH) soon became a very important man in Egypt.

9 During the famine, the Prophet Yusuf's (PBUH) brothers went to collect their family's share of the food in Egypt and saw the man in charge of the food stores. He recognised them but they didn't recognise him, so they were surprised when they found out that this important man was their brother. The brothers asked their father to forgive them.



Just hanging out?

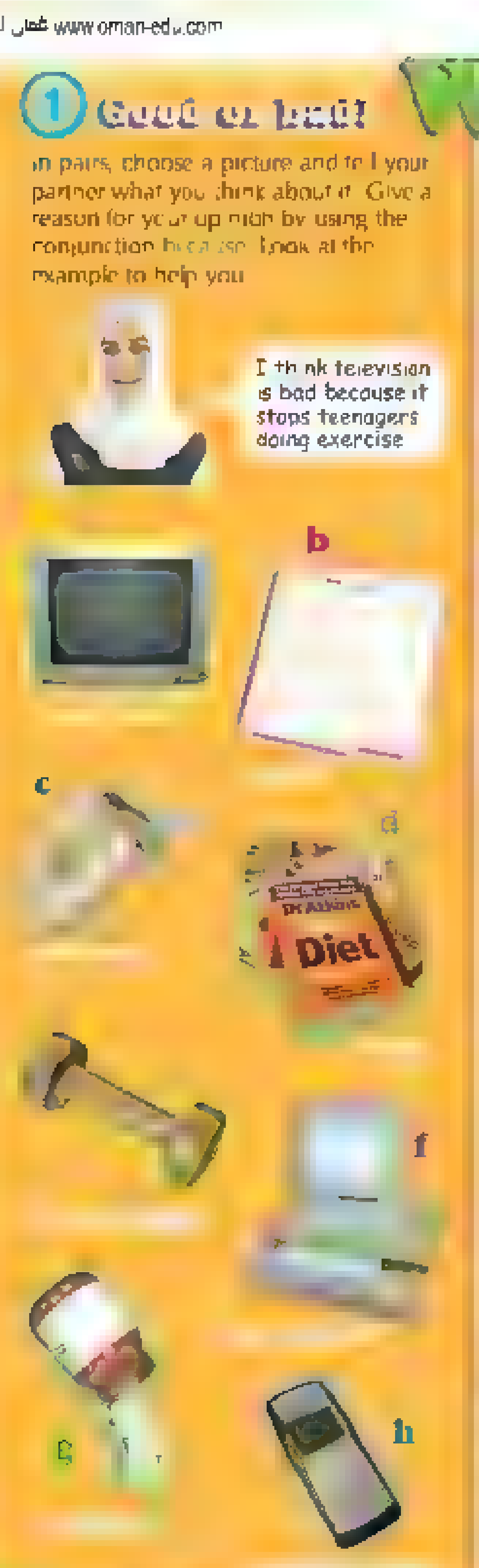


Hi, I'm Dotty!
In America, teens like hanging out at fast food restaurants and grabbing a bite to eat, but that can be a bit expensive. Meeting friends at their houses is great – you can listen to music, watch TV, or just chat. Then there are the shopping malls to wander round and look at what's on sale. However, I really enjoy going ice-skating with my friends. It's such a laugh.

What's your

1 Good or bad?

In pairs, choose a picture and tell your partner what you think about it. Give a reason for your opinion by using the conjunction *because*. Look at the example to help you.



1. The colour of a person's skin is a very sensitive subject in many parts of the world. Where I live in Senegal, Africa, skin-whitening creams are illegal. However, in many countries women and teenagers still use these creams and lotions.

2. In many parts of Africa, skin-whitening cream is very popular with young women because they think fair skin makes them look more attractive. Many of the women they see on television and in magazines have fair skin and they want to look like them.

3. Many skin-whitening creams are very harmful. They contain chemicals such as ammonia and hydrogen peroxide, which bleach the skin. Sometimes these can burn your skin and give you blisters. If you put these creams on and go out in the sun, your skin can get spots.

4. In my opinion, women and teenagers should not use skin-whitening creams because they are dangerous for your skin. In my view, the colour of people's skin is not important. I think that teenagers around the world should stop concentrating on what they look like on the outside. In my view, who you are on the inside and how you behave with other people is more important than what you look like.

JOJO

Source: www.bbc.co.uk 28/1/2004

opinion?

2 ITC say it loud and clear!

Some members of the ITC have sent in their opinions about topics which they feel strongly about. Look at the two texts and then answer the focus questions in your exercise book.

1. I am writing because I think people must learn more about the dangers of medicines.
2. People who feel stressed, or who have aches and pains, can buy a variety of painkillers at the pharmacy without seeing a doctor. Nowadays, it is easy to feel better. However, these medicines have become more and more powerful lately and contain some strong drugs such as caffeine and codeine.
3. Some painkillers are killers. Aspirin and ibuprofen can destroy the stomach and paracetamol can give you high blood pressure if you use them too often. Some strong painkillers are addictive. In the UK, about 30 000 people are addicted to medicines which can be bought from any pharmacy.
4. In my opinion, people should use fewer painkillers. In my view, massage and resting are good ways to stop headaches. I think if people must buy painkillers, they should only use them for a few days so they don't get addicted to them.

Tracey

Sources: Good Housekeeping magazine, UK, Nov 2002
www.bbc.co.uk 02/12/2004

Focus Questions

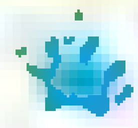
Look at texts a and b and answer these questions in your exercise book.

1. Which text should have the title 'Painkiller or Pain Maker?'
2. Which text should have the title 'White isn't Right'?
3. Which paragraphs have the following main ideas?
   - The writer's opinion about the topic.
   - The reasons people shouldn't do this.
   - The topic the author is writing about.
   - The reasons people do this.
4. Which paragraphs contain facts?
5. Where did Jojo get her facts?
6. Do you agree with the writers' opinions?

3 Read and find the meaning.

Find the following words by scanning texts a and b. Then, in your exercise book, match them to one of the meanings below.

1. addicted (to) (text b)	a. (to) feel worried and not relaxed
2. bleach (text a)	b. a substance that reduces pain
3. blister (text a)	c. to turn white
4. lotion (text a)	d. can't stop taking a drug
5. painkiller (text b)	e. a liquid cream
6. stressed (text b)	f. a painful bubble of skin



Top Teen of the Year

1) Nominations.

You have just opened an envelope and found three nomination forms and a memo. Read the memo below and decide what you have to do.

Memo

Date: September 15th, 2005
Subject: Top Teen Award

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed the top three nominations for this year's award. We would appreciate your help and assistance in judging the nominations. Please decide which of the three nominations should be given the award. Please send me the name of the winning nomination, along with a list of your reasons, as soon as possible.

The award ceremony and gala evening will be held in The Grand Hall, at the Hiltong Hotel on December 1st, as previously discussed.

Yours faithfully,

Doctor B. Fire

Nominee's Personal Details

Full name of nominee: David Morgan

Address: 33 Bluebell Street, Bexhill, East Sussex, UK

Telephone: 01409 [illegible]

Date of birth: [illegible] 1990

Male / Female

Why, in your opinion, should the nominee be awarded a Top Teen Award?

I think David should get an award because he saved a boy's life. He was walking home when he heard a boy shouting for help from the roof of a tall building. The boy had hurt his leg and he was losing a lot of blood. David quickly rang the emergency services on 999 and then he climbed up onto the roof. He took off his coat and put it around the boy's leg. He pressed down on the cut to stop the blood flow. Then David told the boy jokes and stories to keep him calm. David's quick action and brave heart saved the boy's life.

Other information

In my opinion, David was extra brave because he is very frightened of high places. He forgot his own fears because he wanted to help another person.

Signature of the person making the nomination: *Arthur Kneegas*

Please print name and address: Arthur Kneegas, 45 Brighton Road, Bexhill, UK

Relationship to nominee: Friend

Award

b

Nominee's Personal Details

Full name of nominee: Jamila Abdul Kareem
Address: Ain Shams, Egypt
Telephone: none
Date of birth: 6/9/89
Male / Female

Why, in your opinion, should the nominee be awarded a Top Teen Award?

In my opinion, my sister is the bravest, most generous person in the world. Three years ago she was hit by a car. Jamila's legs were broken and now she has to use a wheelchair. However, she is cheerful and active. She has started a basketball club for people in wheelchairs and in this way, she supports other people with disabilities because she gives them confidence and helps them to be part of the community. My sister never complains and she is never miserable. I think she is a very unselfish person.

Other information

Last year, Jamila took part in a wheelchair marathon and raised a lot of money for a cancer charity.

Signature of the person making this nomination: *Osama Abdul Kareem*
Please print name and address: Osama Abdul Kareem, address as above
Relationship to nominee: Brother

Send the completed form to: Top Teen Award, 110 Bank Street, London, UK
All nomination forms must be submitted before October 25th.

2 Agreeing and disagreeing.

In your group, take turns to say why your nominee should get the Top Teen Award. Read and use the following language to help you agree and disagree. Your group must try and agree on one nominee for the award.

- Exactly
- I agree
- That's right
- I'm not sure
- I'm sorry but I don't agree
- No way!

c

Nominee's Personal Details

Full name of nominee: Basil Franks
Address: Vestervang 1, Arhus, Denmark
Telephone: 45-97834555
Date of birth: 13/1/86
Male / Female

Why, in your opinion, should the nominee be awarded a Top Teen Award?

In my view, Basil is the greatest footballer in the world. Basil's skill and success has encouraged thousands of girls and boys to play sports and to keep fit and healthy. He does a lot of charity work and he sold his football boots in May to raise money for children with no parents. I think he has helped many thousands of teenagers lead a better life. I think he is a wonderful role-model for teenagers in the world.

Signature of the person making this nomination: *Oswald Gide*
Please print name and address: Oswald Gide, Arken 148, Copenhagen, Denmark
Relationship to nominee: Friend

Other information

Although Basil is famous, he is a generous, kind and humble person.

Teen Talk

helpful careless

lazy

Hi Andy. What's up?

Nothing. I'm just hanging out. How about you, Mark.

I'm on my way to mend my little brother's bike.

Why? What happened?

He crashed into a tree. He's OK, but the bike's broken. Want to come?

OK, nothing else is happening. Where is it?

It's past those houses at the end of the street.

Oh, you're going to Bob's Bikes? But this way's quicker.

No way! That goes past Mr Fripp's dog. Have you seen its teeth?

Come on. We might get chosen for a Top Teen Award for being brave!

That's not brave, that's stupid! I'm going this way.

OK then, we'll do it your way! So, do you know who won the Top Teen Award?

Yes, it was Vicky!

You must be joking, Vicky!

Yes, Vicky! Cross my heart! She raised 10,000 rials for charity last year.

Wow! How?

She started a students charity shop and she ran 5 marathons.

We should raise money for charity or volunteer to help others. We might get nominated for the Top Teen Award.

Well, we could ... or we could just chill out in front of the tv!

Writers and Writing

Contents

Classbook

Contents

Skills Book

Famous Writers

Focus Questions

Skim texts a, b and c and discuss the focus questions in your group

1 [illegible]

2 Which author wrote in the 20th century?

3 [illegible]

4 [illegible] main ideas to the paragraphs:
- conclusion
- childhood
- [illegible]
- adult life and achievements
- how the authors got their ideas

1 Three authors

Read about a famous writer and answer the questions in the Biographies cut-out page at the back of the Skills Book

Jane Austen

1. Jane Austen, who was a famous English author, wrote books in the early 19th century. She wrote fascinating descriptions which were about society and people.

2. Jane Austen, who was the youngest of seven children, was born on December 16th, 1775. She was the daughter of a gentleman so she was not allowed to get a job. She stayed at home and wrote plays and books which she read to her brothers and sisters.

3. Her first book, which was called *Sense and Sensibility*, was published in 1811. It was published anonymously. Two years later, she published *Pride and Prejudice* followed by *Emma* and *Persuasion*, which were all published anonymously.

4. Jane made very careful and detailed observations of people and society which she used for ideas in her stories. She didn't like to be disturbed when she was writing. She wrote in a small dressing room that had a creaking door. The door warned Jane when visitors were approaching so she could hide her writing.

5. Jane Austen lived a very quiet life. She did not marry and she rarely left home. She died on July 18th, 1817. After her death Austen's brother finally put her name on her books. Many people consider her to be one of the greatest writers of all time.

By O Osbourne

Jane Austen

Taha Hussein

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Taha Hussein

1. Taha Hussein is one of the most famous writers in Egypt. He is famous for his writing because it creates discussions and new ideas.

2. Taha Hussein was born in Al Minya province, which is in Upper Egypt, on October 28th 1898. When he was two years old, he had an eye disease which made him blind. However, by the age of thirteen, Taha Hussein had memorised the Qur'an, which won him a scholarship to university.

3. Taha Hussein was one of the first people to be awarded a PHD at Cairo University. He wrote more than fifty books which were translated into several languages. He is best known for *An Egyptian Childhood*, ___ his autobiography published in 1932 and *The Stream of Days*, which was published in 1943. He was awarded more than 36 Egyptian and foreign awards that included the *Collar of the Nile*.

4. Taha Hussein read books about history, literature and Islam, which gave him many ideas for his writing. He read the books in Braille and his wife also read and wrote for him.

5. Dr Taha Hussein, who died on October 28th 1973, overcame blindness and poverty to become the most famous writer in Egypt.

By Nawal Idris

Alfred Lord Tennyson

1. Alfred Lord Tennyson was an English poet who was famous for describing the feelings and attitudes of the Victorians.

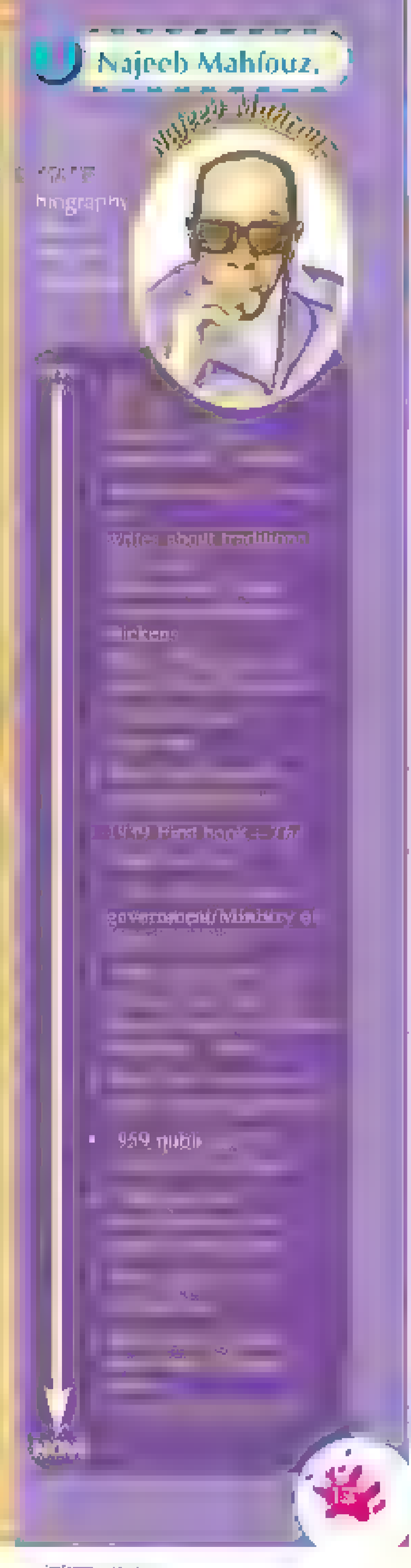
2. Tennyson ___ was born on August 5th 1809. He went to school for just four years [2]. After that, he was taught at home. Tennyson went on to study at Cambridge University, where he met Arthur Hallam, who became his best friend.

3. In 1833, Hallam ___ died suddenly. Tennyson was shocked and depressed but his grief produced his best poetry, ___ included *In Memoriam*, *Ulysses* and *Morte d'Arthur*. In 1850, he married Emily Sellwood. One year later, their first child was born dead, (4). The following year, they had a son, (5). Queen Victoria (6), supported Tennyson's writing.

4. Tennyson used his poetry to express his feelings and thoughts. He often wrote about death and he also used myths and legends to give him ideas. Tennyson was very short-sighted ___. He created a lot of poetry in his head and remembered it by saying it aloud (3).

5. Alfred Lord Tennyson died on October 6th 1892 and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London. He is recognised as one of the greatest poets of the Victorian age.

By W H Smith



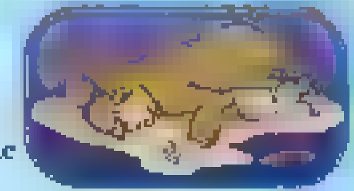
Great Writing

Focus Questions

1. Which text is a story?
3. What do you think the story is about?
4. Is it the beginning, middle or end of a story?

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Read and listen to the following scene from a story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



Holmes dropped down on his knees, put his ear to the ground and said, "I think I can hear him coming."

A sound of quick steps broke the silence of the night. The steps grew louder and through the fog, as through a curtain, appeared the man who we were waiting for.

He came swiftly along the path, passed close to where we were hiding and ran up the hill behind us. As he walked, he glanced continually over his shoulder, like a man who thinks he is being followed.

"Quiet!" whispered Holmes. "Look out! It's coming!"

We glared at the cloud of fog. Suddenly, a dreadful shape jumped out from the shadows of the fog. It was an enormous hound. Its eyes shone red and its muzzle glowed like flickering flames in a fire.

Far away on the path, we saw Sir Henry looking back. His face was white in the moonlight and his hands were raised in horror. He glared helplessly at the frightful hound which was hunting him down.

As we flew up the track, we heard scream after scream from Sir Henry and the deep roar of the hound. I arrived to see the hound attack Sir Henry and push him to the ground. But in the next second Holmes had fired his gun into the creature's body. With a last howl, it rolled on its back and then fell dead on its side.

"Good grief, Watson," exclaimed Holmes. "What was it?"

We looked at the terrible creature which was lying stretched before us. It was as large as a small lioness. Even now, in the stillness of death, the huge jaws seemed to be dripping with a blue flame and the small, cruel eyes looked as though they were ringed with fire. I put my hand on the glowing muzzle and when I held them up my own fingers were shining in the darkness.

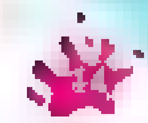
"Phosphorus," I said.

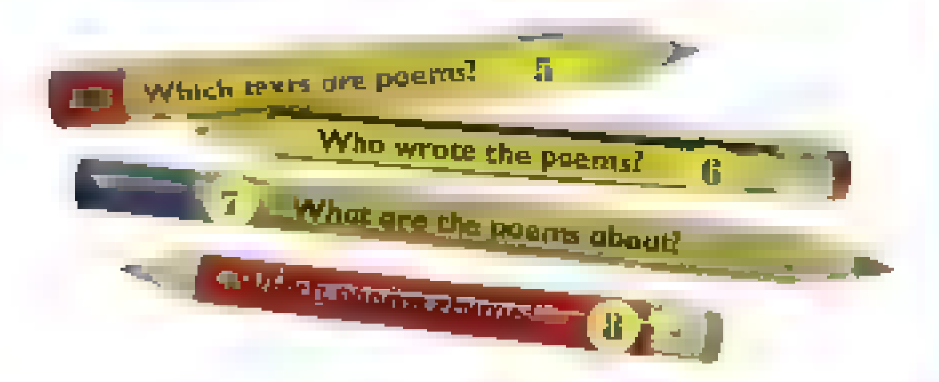
"Yes, Watson. Someone has used a clever mixture of paint and phosphorus," replied Holmes, examining the dead animal. "We apologise, Sir Henry, for giving you this fright. I was prepared for a hound but not a creature like this."

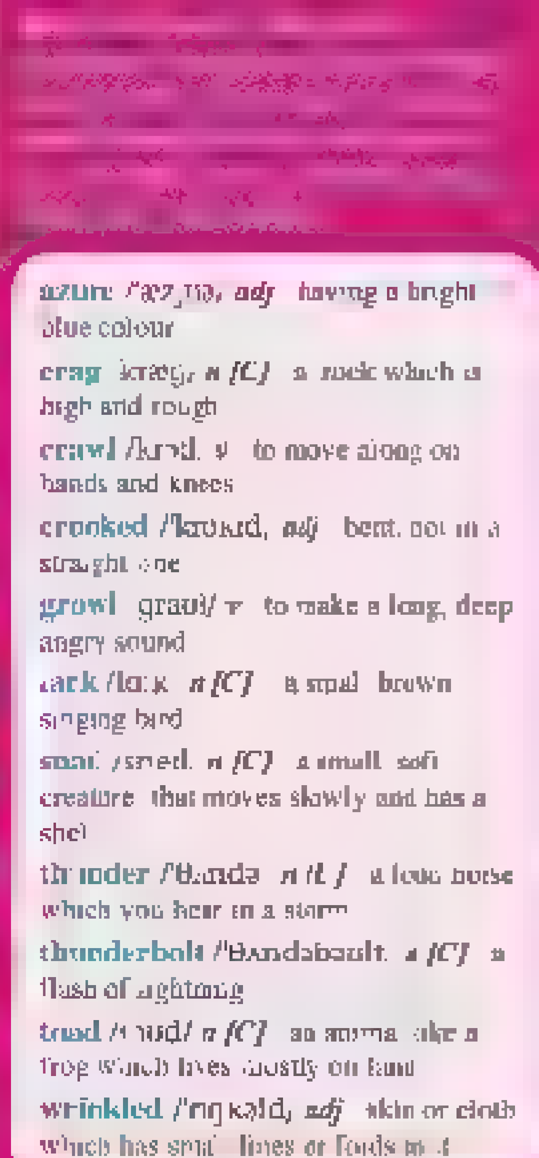
"Holmes," murmured Sir Henry. "You have saved my life."

"I'm sorry I put you in danger," replied Holmes. "Are you strong enough to stand

Adapted from: www.bibliomania.com







Dictionary

azure /ˈæʒə/, *adj* having a bright blue colour

crag /kræg/, *n [C]* a rock which is high and rough

crawl /krɔːl/, *v* to move along on hands and knees

crooked /ˈkrʊkɪd/, *adj* bent, not in a straight line

growl /graʊl/ *v* to make a long, deep angry sound

lark /lɑːk/ *n [C]* a small brown singing bird

snail /sneɪl/ *n [C]* a small soft creature that moves slowly and has a shell

thunder /ˈθʌndə/ *n [U]* a loud noise which you hear in a storm

thunderbolt /ˈθʌndəbəʊlt/ *n [C]* a flash of lightning

toad /təʊd/ *n [C]* an animal like a frog which lives mostly on land

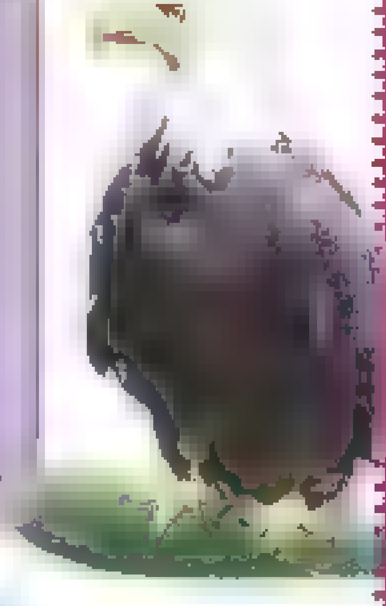
wrinkled /ˈrɪŋkəld/, *adj* skin or cloth which has small lines or folds in it

The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls
He watches from his mountain

Alfred Lord Tennyson



Imagine

Imagine a snail
As big as a whale
Imagine a lark
As big as a shark,
Imagine a bee
As big as a tree
Imagine a toad
As long as a road.
Imagine a hare
As big as a chair
Imagine a goat
As long as a boat
And a flea the same
size as me

Roland Egan

Writers

Read the newspaper article and complete the competition poster on the cut-out page at the back of the Skills Book.

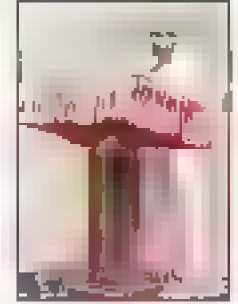
NEWS

New Writing Competition Announced

Reporter: Shenaz Saleem

1. Earlier today, a new writing competition was launched as part of the upcoming Cultural Festival to be held in Oman. Officials announced that the new 'Writers Write' competition, which aims to encourage students to write poetry and stories, is the first of its kind in Oman.

2. Speaking to an audience of distinguished guests and teachers at the Grand Hotel in Muscat, Ahmed Ali, who is the event's manager, said, "It gives me great pleasure to launch the new 'Writers Write' competition. We hope that this competition will give rise to a new generation of talented writers and poets in Oman."

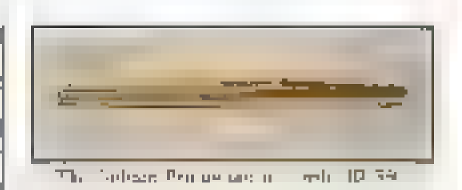


Ahmed Ali launches the Writers Write competition

3. The 'Writers Write' competition, which is divided into two age groups, is for students of government and private schools. The 'Young Writers' category, which is for 8 to 12 year olds, and the 'Young Teen Writers' category, which is for 13 to 19 year olds, will make the competition fairer for all participants.

4. Prizes that are worth OR 300 for each category will be awarded for Best Fictional Story, Best Factual Story and Best Poem for entrants in each age group. Additionally, The Golden Pen award, that is worth OR 500, will be given to the best author in the competition.

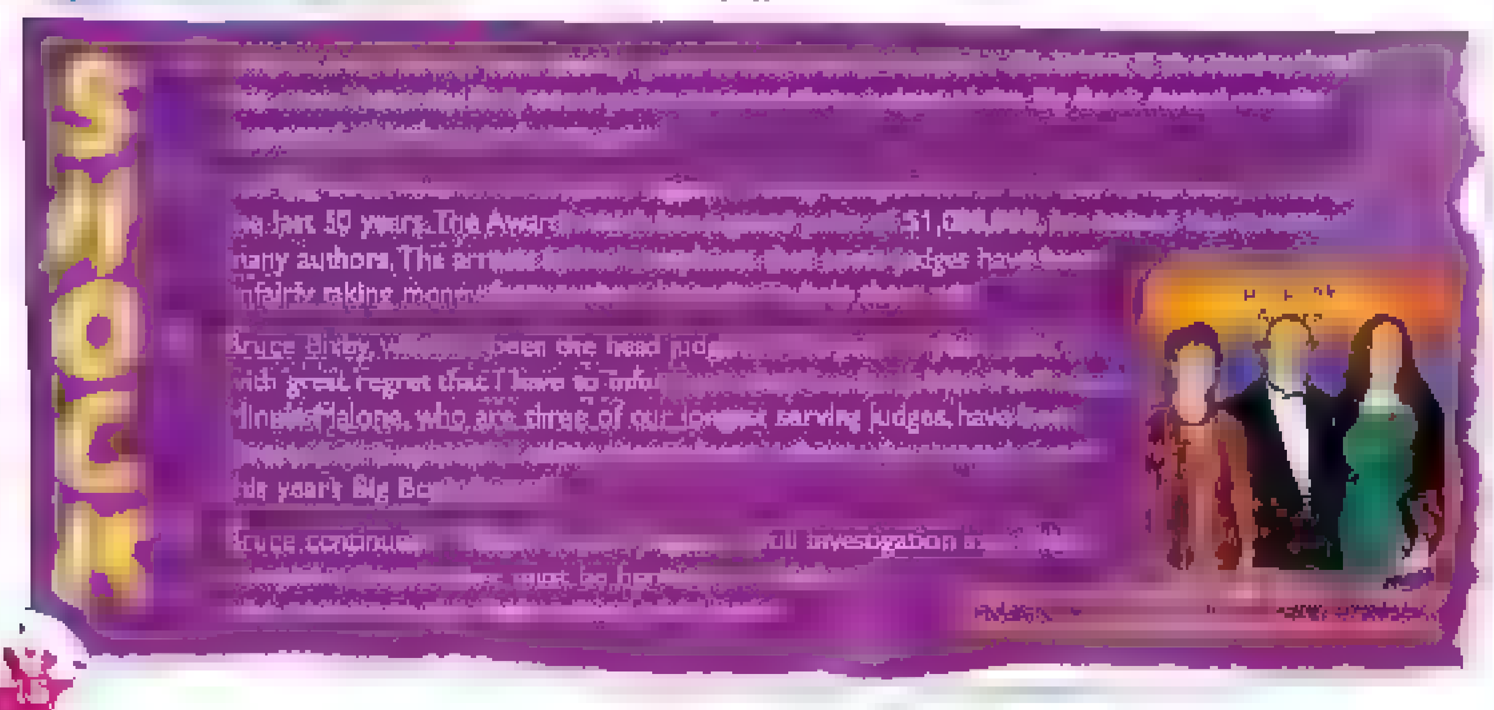
5. All entries should be submitted either through schools or directly to the offices of the event organisers which are located in Seeb. All entries should be submitted along with an application form. The closing date for all entries is December 31st.



The Golden Pen award is worth OR 500

6. Ahmed Ali thanked government organisations, the private sector and individuals that have generously ... this event. He went on to say, "In a fast-changing world, it still remains important to remember that *to read is to write and to write is to read*." We hope that all schools will take this opportunity to participate in this event.

Read the following and complete the interview in activity 3 on page 20 of the Skills Book.



Read the best entries of the ITC writing competition and complete activity 3 on page 19 of the Skills Book.

The Scary Dream

1

One night I had a scary, frightening dream about my best friend Zainab and me. We were out walking along a long, winding, dusty road near our village. It was a dark night because the moon was not shining.

Suddenly, a car came racing towards us. A loud, angry noise was coming from the car's engine. It seemed to be saying to us, "I'm coming to get you!" and its bright lights blinded us. We were both terrified and covered our faces with our hands to block out the bright lights.

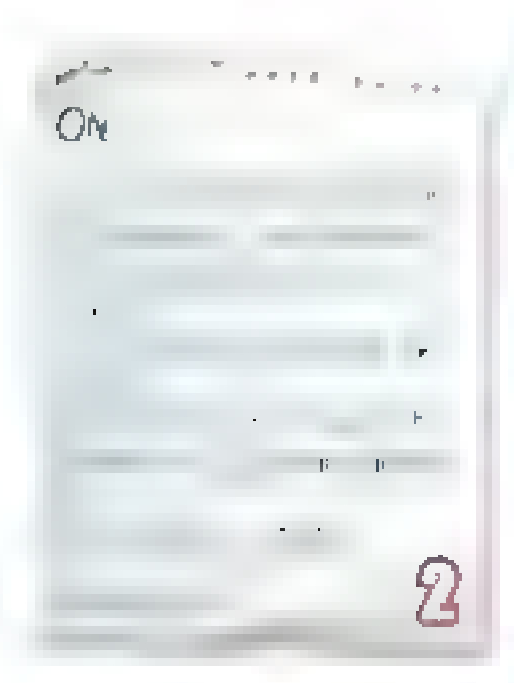
I was so frightened that I couldn't move and started to cry. However, my friend Zainab was braver than me and shouted, "Let's run!" She grabbed my arm and pulled me along. We both started running towards an old house as fast as we could, but it seemed to take a long time to get there.

When we got to the house, we climbed in through a broken window. We were in a big, dark, empty room with no furniture in it. On the far side of the room was a small door that was big enough for one person to crawl through. We quickly ran towards it and tried to open it, but it was hard to open. We pulled as hard as we could and finally managed to open the door.

It was difficult to see what was on the other side of the door but Zainab went in first. I asked Zainab, "Can you see anything?" but there was no reply. "Should I walk through?" I asked myself. Suddenly the room lit up with a bright light. It was the car. Frightened, I decided to jump through the door as fast as I could so I could get away from the car.

On the other side of the door it was still dark. Darker than the night sky, darker than a black cat. I found myself falling, faster, faster and faster. I shouted, "Help!" and woke up in bed. I was back in my bedroom. I realised that it was all a dream.

Based on a story by Badriya Salim



Eid Mubarak

3

This is a report about the festival of Eid Al Fitr in Oman. I will start by telling you about Eid Al Fitr and why it is important. Then I will go on to tell you what people do and eat during Eid Al Fitr. Finally, I will conclude by telling you why Eid Al Fitr is important for me.

Eid Al Fitr is one of the most important festivals in our country and celebrates the end of the fasting month of Ramadhan. The first day of Eid Al Fitr is on the first day of the month of Shawal.

In the morning, everyone dresses in new clothes. The men go to pray while the women and children spend time with their friends or stay at home to prepare food. When the men return home, everyone sits down to eat together.

There are many special foods for Eid Al Fitr. These include harees and a sweet called halwa. Many foods are prepared several days before Eid Al Fitr.

Eid Al Fitr is also a time for children when we receive Eidya. Also, children are taken to special places like parks and funfairs to enjoy themselves. It's also a special time when family and friends can be together. That is why I enjoy Eid Al Fitr so much.

Based on work by Omani students

Writers

Introduction

Hello [illegible] members, still having problems thinking of what [illegible] make your writing [illegible]? Well DON'T PANIC, the [illegible] is here to help you. We have [illegible]

There [illegible] information in the following sections

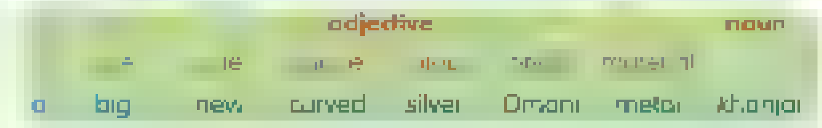
- Getting ideas
- The process of writing
- Using punctuation
- Using interesting words
- Making interesting sentences

Read on and see if your problems can be solved. Who knows, we may even help you become a RIGHT WRITER

[illegible]

There are lots of interesting words you can use to help improve your writing. Adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions can all help to improve your work

1. Use **adjectives** to tell more about a noun
   - When using more than one adjective we usually sequence them



	adjective						noun
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	material	
a	big	new	curved	silver	Omani	metal	khanjar

2. Use **adverbs** to tell more about a verb and how an action is done. For example
   - The man quickly ran home.
     adverb verb
   - She spoke loudly to the noisy group of children
     verb adverb
3. Use **conjunctions**, or 'linking words', to help link clauses or sentences.
   - [illegible] then, next, however, although, and, as, which, that, who are good examples of conjunctions

[illegible]

Remember, writing is a process [illegible] like taking steps one at a time, and with each step you do something different to make your writing better. The WRITING R[illegible] process [illegible] help you with your writing. It reminds you what to do, and when to do it. Take a look at the Writing Route below to help you

[illegible]
- Brainstorm
- Write a plan with [illegible] paragraph
- Research [illegible]
- Read books

[illegible]
- Read your plan
- Write as [illegible] as possible
- [illegible] your plan

Revise
- Get your friend to read your work
- Talk with your friend about your ideas and main point [illegible] work
- Write down any new ideas and add them to your plan
- Re-write your plan

Re-draft
- Read your new plan again
- Read your first draft again
- Re-write your work with the new ideas you have

[illegible]

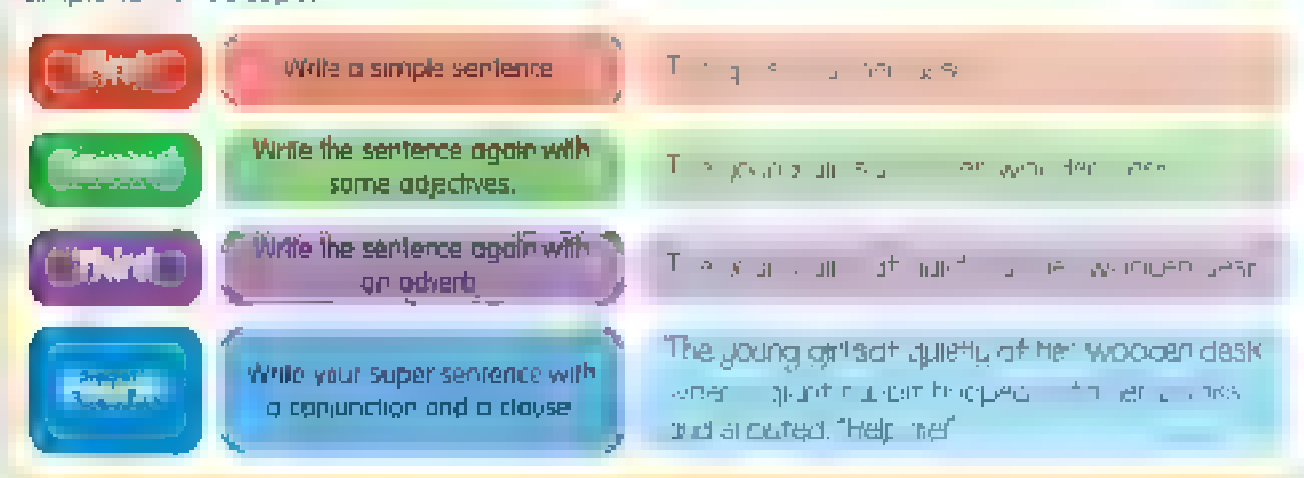
In writing, we use punctuation to tell people about what is happening and to make our writing more interesting. Reading stories can help you see how to use punctuation marks

Punctuation marks are like signs and include the following

1. A **capital letter** has many uses. For example
   - It is used at the beginning of a sentence and tells you that something new is starting
   - It is used to tell you if something is a name
   - It is used for subject pronouns
2. A **full stop** has many uses. For example
   - It is used at the end of a sentence to tell you that a sentence has finished
   - It is used in abbreviations
3. A **question mark** is used to show that a question is being asked
4. An **exclamation mark** helps show a command and strong feelings like anger and surprise
5. A **comma** has many uses. For example
   - It is used in long sentences to give a pause or a rest, like taking a breath, before going into a new idea within a sentence
   - It is used to list nouns and adjectives
   - It is used with speech marks
   - It is used in some conjunctions
6. An **apostrophe** has many uses. For example
   - It is used to show contractions, or when a letter is missing
   - It is used to show possession, or that a noun owns something
7. **Speech marks** tell you when someone is speaking

Write Right!

Small sentences are [illegible] super sentences [illegible] the reader. A super sentence [illegible] adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and clauses. Follow the four steps below to make a simple sentence super.



How to get started and think of ideas can be one of the most difficult parts of the writing process. When you don't have an idea of what to write, this is often referred to as writer's block. It can take some writers days, weeks or even months to find ideas. Here are some ideas to get over writer's block. Try them if you have a problem.

1. Just start writing anything that you can think of [illegible] piece of paper. Don't worry about your handwriting or spelling. Don't worry about how good the ideas are, because you may come up with an idea that's good.
2. Write lists of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs you like. These may give you words to help write some sentences. These sentences may then help you write your story.
3. Write lists of stories or poems you have read and think about what you like or don't like about the stories. This may help you to decide what kind of things you like writing about.
4. Keep a notebook with you and write any ideas down while you do other work.
5. Write in different places. Maybe go to a different room, maybe go outside, or maybe even lie on the floor.
6. Remember the more you read, the more ideas you'll have to write about. "To read is to write and to write is to read."

Check

- Look at your checklist.
- Look in the dictionary.
- Look at your [illegible] and handwriting.
- Look at your sentences and paragraphs.

Read your second draft when you have finished.

Think about what is missing.

Think again how to make your writing better.

Edit

Make sure that all your work is correct.

Change any words. Change the order of sentences and paragraphs.

Publish

Get a clean piece of paper.

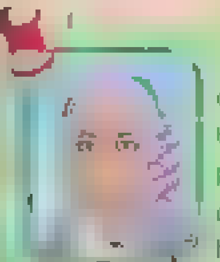
Make sure you are in a quiet place.

Write carefully.

www.oman-edu.com عمان التعليمية

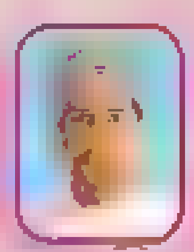
Club Talk.

Answer the focus questions by reading what people have to say about the unit in Club Talk. Write short answers in your exercise book.



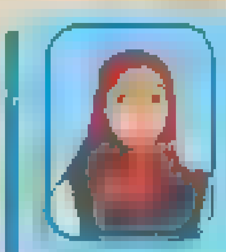
1

I was so worried about taking part in the writing competition. It's so scary to think that you have to write a whole story on your own. However, this page is a great web site that the [illegible] put together and has all the information I need to be a wonderful writer at my fingertips. It helped me a lot in organising myself by using the Writing Route. It also helped me to make my writing better. I used to write boring sentences, but now I know about making super sentences with adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions. I hope you used it to help you. I think that's a good learning strategy, don't you?



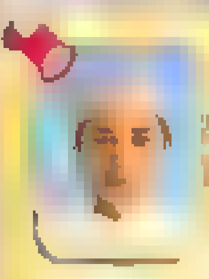
2

My teachers are always talking about different authors, but I never knew much about them until I looked at this page. The biographies on this page told me a lot about other authors, what they wrote about and what helped them to write. [illegible] just like [illegible] authors, [illegible] really enjoy writing stories and poems for my family and friends. I've even won a few writing competitions at school. I think by finding out more about other authors, I'll become a better writer myself because I'll get new ideas. I think that's a good learning strategy, don't you?



3

Wow, this page really challenges you to have a go at writing. I've usually written stories for my class work but to write a story for others to read is quite frightening. However if you [illegible] think of what you could do with all that prize money. It was difficult at first to know what to write about, but then when I saw the story, poem and report, it gave me some help in brainstorming my own ideas. Yes, using these examples helped me think about what I wanted to write. I think that's a good learning strategy, don't you?



It's the first page of the unit. I really like this page and find it useful, because it tells me what the unit is about. It can also remind me of the things I've done before in other units or grades. For example, this time it helped me remember some of the great stories I've read in the past. There's also lots of helpful information in it about what to look at in the Skills Book and the Classbook. That means I know what I'm going to do in the unit. That gives me the chance to find out more about the contents and maybe research anything I'm not sure about. It's a bit like preparing myself to do the best I can before the lesson starts. I think that's a good learning strategy, don't you?

5

You see, I don't think it's just about other authors. It's also about the language you use. A story is only good if the language is good. That's why I liked this page the best. On this page, you'll see different stories and poems and find out more about alliteration, similes and metaphors. They're all part of a writer's toolbox – you know, the different things a writer uses to make their story interesting. I like writing stories to make other people happy and entertain them. Reading other stories, finding out about what makes stories good and how to use alliteration, similes and metaphors is important. I think that's a good learning strategy, don't you?

- Which Classbook title is text 1 talking about?
- What learning strategy is mentioned in text 3?
- Which text talks about the Classbook page 'Famous Writers'?
- Which text talks about the Classbook page 'Great Writing'?
- Which Classbook title is text 4 talking about?
- Why is the first page of the unit important?

MONEY

"I don't spend much of it. I like saving it in the bank where it's nice and safe."

"I think it's important to remember that many people don't have it. That's why I do a lot of fund raising."

"I really enjoy shopping with it."

"I'd like to win a million rials to buy lots of new cars."

"In my view rich people are unhappy because..."

"My friend has a huge collection of Omani coins and banknotes. It's an interesting hobby."

"My friend is a real miser. He never spends any money on his family or friends. I think that money makes you selfish."

"I found an old Omani coin once and it's in a museum now."

1. I agree
2. Exactly
3. That's right
4. That's true
5. Absolutely

6. I disagree
7. Sorry, but I don't agree
8. I'm not sure
9. No way!
10. I don't think that's true

"I think if you buy something that breaks, you should complain about it."

"If you had no money, you wouldn't be able to buy things."

"In my opinion it makes people greedy. They just want more and more of it."

People and Money

Read and complete activity 4 on page 26 of the Skills Book.

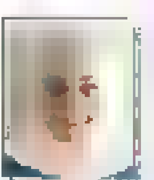
Dear ITC members,

Hi, I collect money. I started collecting money when my uncle came back from a holiday in the UK. He gave me a shiny gold-coloured pound coin. I thought it was beautiful.

I've collected many notes and coins since then. I've shown my collection to many of my friends and family. Recently, I've been on TV and I've talked about my collection to officials from the museum. They've said it is one of the best collections in Oman.

Not long ago, I found a really old coin from Oman in the desert and showed it to someone from the museum. They said it was rare and worth a lot of money. I wanted to add it to my collection, but the officials told me it was part of our national heritage and had to stay in the museum.

I think it's a wonderful hobby because it is a great way to find out about history and the past.



Best wishes,
Naila

Dear ITC members,

I really like money, but I don't like spending it on anything or anyone. I started when my aunty gave me some money for my birthday. I kept it under my bed in an old box. Slowly I saved more and more money until I had to put it into a bank.

I go to the bank every week to put money in my account. I also like to check how much money I've collected and I really enjoy seeing the amount of money get bigger and bigger. I don't like taking money out of my account.

My aunt says I am a miser and mean because when I go shopping with my family and friends I never buy anything. I always get others to buy things for me. I think that's a clever way to save money.

Best wishes,
Bob

Hello ITC,

Not so long ago, I read a really interesting newspaper article all about poverty. It made me feel really sad to think that there are so many people who have to live with so little. It also made me think how lucky we are and how much we have.

Imagine having to live on less than a rial a day. What could you buy? How would you spend your money? It got me thinking about what I could do to help.

My friends and I asked our teacher if we could help raise some money. He thought it was a great idea. We decided to do a 12km walk and clean up the wadi to help raise money. So far we have raised 300 rials for the Red Crescent. They are going to give it to people who need it more than we do.

Try it.

Best wishes,
Ibrahim

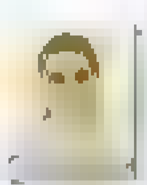
Dear ITC members,

I say, "Spend, spend, spend!" You only live once so why save any money?

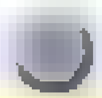
Money is for spending, not saving. Spending money makes me feel great. Every day I have to go out to the shops and buy something new. Recently, I have bought clothes, pens and pencils and lots of jewellery. There's always something new to buy or something old to replace.

Last year I spent over $1000. I tried to control my spending, but it's really difficult when there are so many things to buy.

If we didn't spend money, there would be no shops or jobs. I think I'm helping others by spending my money.



Best wishes,
Monica



Naila went to visit a Money Museum and collected the following leaflet. Read the information and complete activity 4 on page 27 of the Skills Book.

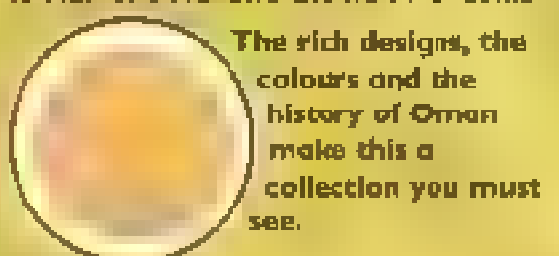
The Money Museum

The Omani Collection

Our new Omani collection shows the importance of Oman in the world. This country has been using coins for centuries to trade with Arabia, East Africa, India and the Far East.

Oman was the first country in the region to make its own coins in the Hijrah year 81. This was called the silver dirham and was produced in the reign of Umayyad Caliph Abd Al-Malik bin Marwan.

We also have more recent examples of money from the 1970s when, on April 22nd 1971 (Hijrah year 1391), Oman became a member of the International Monetary Fund. These include the gold 15 rial, one rial and the half rial coins.

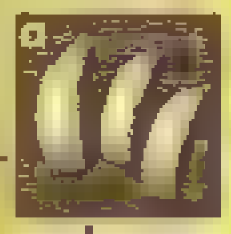


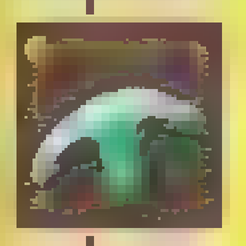
The rich designs, the colours and the history of Oman make this a collection you must see.

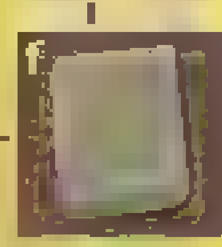
Different kinds of money

Different things have been used for money over the past 5,000 years. What was used as money depended on what was valuable or rare at the time. Different kinds of money have included:

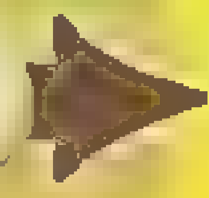
1. Copper axes, which were used in Mexico in the 16th century.
2. Kina pearl shells, which were used in Papua New Guinea well into the 20th century.
3. Tea, which was used in Russia, Tibet and China until the 1970s.
4. Salt, which was very valuable in ancient times because it could be used to preserve food.
5. Dog's teeth and whale's teeth, which were used as money on islands round the Pacific.
6. Wampum, which were beads made from clam shells and were used by the Native Americans until 1636.







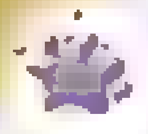
The History of Money



We hope this taste into the world of the Money Museum has encouraged you to visit us soon. Just drop in. We're at

101 Penny Lane, Croxteth, Liverpool, L6 7WT, UK
Tel: 0151 7642142

Opening times: Tuesday–Saturday 9am–5pm



Money mix

Here are texts on two different topics. Read the Learning Strategy about Deciding the topic on page 29 of the Skills Book. Then read the following pieces of information and decide what the two topics are about. Finally complete activity 3 on page 29 of the Skills Book.

1 In the UK many children get pocket money from their parents for doing chores around the house.

8 It seems that the older you are, the more you get. If you are [illegible]-16 years old, you get £9.[illegible]5 a week, while 7-1[illegible] year olds get £6.[illegible] per week.

12 Research in the USA has shown that [illegible] million people cannot control their spending. These people are called shopaholics.

2 Famous shopaholics in history have included Mary Todd Lincoln, who bought 84 pairs of gloves, and Imelda Marcos, who owned thousands of shoes.

13 With the ease of online Internet shopping, shops being open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, advertisements telling you to buy, credit card companies telling you to spend... it has never been so easy to spend, spend, spend.

3 Children in Wales get the highest amount at £8.49, while children in Scotland get only £6.18.

9 Where does all that pocket money go? It seems 60% of it goes on sweets, chocolate, crisps and soft drinks. However, some of it is spent on clothes, sports shoes, and computer games.

14 These are people who don't just buy 1 CD at a time, but have to buy 20 CDs at a time, or spend $200 on getting their hair cut.

4 If your house is full of things that are still wrapped, clothes in the cupboard that still have their labels on, shoes that remain unworn for months and CDs that you have never played, and if you have to go and buy anything and everything at anytime, chances are you may be a shopaholic.

10 Girls save 99p, or 44%, of their pocket money, while boys only save 8[illegible]p, or 35%, of theirs.

15 Many do it because they are lonely or sad in some way.

5 Kids in London receive £7.59.

11 Some doctors have started to treat people with drugs to help control their spending habit.

6 The problem is that people end up spending all their time and money on this activity, which can leave them forgetting about family, friends and work. Many end up owing a lot of money to others.

16 On average, children in the UK get £7.82 per week. That is a total of £[illegible] a year.

7 Girls get 1[illegible]p a week more than boys, who have to work up to two hours more a week than girls to get theirs.

learning strategy

writing letters of complaint

A Remember that a letter of complaint is a FORMAL letter.

We write formal letters if there is something important to write about or reply to.

Formal letters

- Use full and not contracted forms, eg I am and NOT I'm
- Do not use simple words, e.g NOT find out but discover
- Put the address and date of the sender on the right
- Put the name and address of the receiver on the left
- Start with Dear Sir, Dear Madam, Dear Sir/Madam or Dear Mr Brown/Mrs Smith
- End with Yours faithfully when you do not know the name of the person
- End with Yours sincerely when you know the name of the person

B When writing a letter of complaint think about the following when planning

Paragraph 1	introduce the complaint
Paragraph 2	describe the problem and how it has affected you
Paragraph 3	tell them what you want them to do
Paragraph 4	Finally I look forward to

Use the Writing Route to help you.

A letter of complaint.

Read the letter of complaint and the learning strategy. Then use the notes about the Automatic hair brusher and write your own letter of complaint in your exercise book.

Easy sailor

Wind bike

Automatic hair brusher

12 Washdown Road
Hr glebi
[illegible]
Hampshire

1st April, 2004

The Manager
Cheap and Cheerful Stores,
[illegible]

Dear Sir/Madam

[illegible]

[illegible] bought it immediately. I really enjoy sailing and I [illegible] out once I got home. However when I [illegible] home and opened the box I found that many of the parts were [illegible] missing. The following [illegible] bands were missing. As a result I [illegible]

[illegible] in my spare time to save money for my hobby, which is sailing. I am really [illegible] which do not work and which are broken. I think your [illegible] box before [illegible] is sold [illegible]

[illegible]

Yours faithfully

Arthur Green

Congratulations!
You are the lucky winner of 1 million rials!

Riches and

Club Talk

What would you do if you had one million rials? Read some opinions from ITC members and decide if you agree or disagree.

I would be so happy and excited if I had one million rials. Although I suppose it's also a bit scary because lots of rich people seem to have very empty and meaningless lives. So, I think I'd spend half of the money straight away and I'd put half of it in the bank to keep it safe for when I'm older.

Focus Questions

1. What kind of story is the story about King Midas?
2. Was Midas a kind man? Why?
3. What gift did the old man give the King?
4. Why did Midas hate the old man's gift?
5. Did money make Midas happy?

King Midas

Read this myth from Greece about King Midas and answer the focus questions in your groups.

[illegible] called [illegible] liked gold [illegible]

[illegible] an old man knocked on [illegible] looking for food and shelter. The King, who [illegible]

[illegible] old man was very [illegible] asked King Midas what he would like [illegible]

The next day, as soon as the sun rose, King Midas lightly touched the bed with his hand. The bed [illegible] could see.

Soon, King Midas felt hungry so he [illegible] dining room [illegible] some bread, it became solid gold. He couldn't eat anything.

Suddenly, his beautiful young daughter came running in from the garden. However, when she touched her father, at once she changed into a gold statue.

[illegible] King's heart [illegible] out of his life [illegible] daughter more than anything [illegible] he called for the old man.

King Midas begged the old man to take away the gift of the golden touch [illegible] man agreed and told King Midas to fill a jug from the stream in the [illegible] the water on everything that was gold.

[illegible] rushed to the stream. First, he sprinkled water on his daughter [illegible] back to real bread, and real water.

[illegible] the King hated his golden touch so much that he sprinkled water on everything because he never wanted to see gold again.

Read and guess the meaning of the words in red.

NEWS

Can money buy happiness?

We all dream of winning one million rials, but would it make us happy?

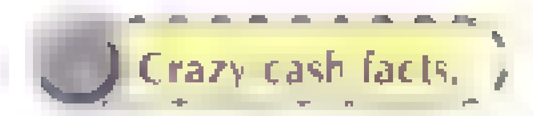
It is true that buying a nice new sports car, new clothes or an expensive new house would make you feel happy, but only for a short time. Soon, you have to go and buy something else so you can get that happy feeling again. Before long, you are working and spending and working and spending, but you are not getting any happier.

Lord Layard, from the London School of Economics, suggests that it is not money which brings happiness, but other things. He argues that people need to have friends and be involved in the local community to be happy. People also need to feel happy with themselves. They need to feel respected by others and feel they have achieved something in their work and life. Money cannot buy you friends, respect and achievement.

This means that if people want happier lives, they will need to change the way they spend their money. If the first thing you do when you win one million rials is to move to a big house in a new area, you might find yourself very lonely and unhappy. Think carefully about how you spend your money if you want to be happy. Give money to charity so you don't feel selfish, start a project which will be good for the community or save it so you don't have to worry about the future.

The message is that the less time we spend shopping, the more time we can give to family and friends, exercise, sleep, travel and other activities which give us a feeling of strength, health and happiness.

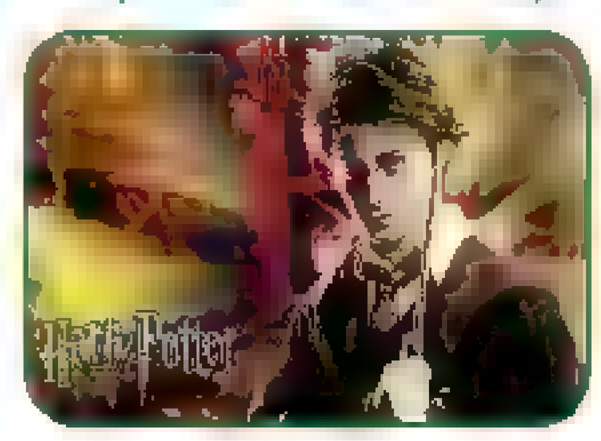
Source: Polly Toynbee (2003) www.guardian.co.uk



You need to be rich to buy the following things! Read the following facts and questions and give your opinions in your groups.

a In January, 2005 a Harley Davidson motorbike was sold for $8 million in America. Do you think it is good to spend $8 million on a motorbike? Why?

b In 2005, a film called 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' cost more than $110 million to make. Do you think it is right to spend $110 million on a film? Why?



Read Abdul Kareem's e-mail and answer the questions in activity.

Dear Radiospeakout

I was on your radio programme yesterday and I think it is wrong to spend lots of money on shoes or a car when there are 700 million people in the world who do not have enough to eat. I am sending this e-mail to let you know how Muslims in Britain give money to help the poor.

Every year, Muslims fast during Ramadhan. This helps us to remember and understand people who are starving. However, Muslims don't just think about starvation, they try to do something about it. At the end of Ramadhan, on the day of the festival of Eid Al Fitr, we give a sum of money to the poor called Zakat Al Fitr.

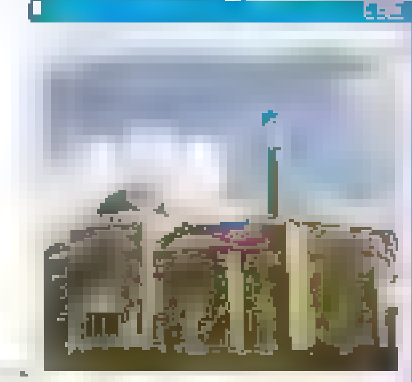
Zakat Al Fitr is the amount it costs to buy one meal. The head of the family pays Zakat Al Fitr. This year, my father paid £2.50 for every member of the family. In addition, my father gives Zakat Al Mal each year. For this he paid 2.5% of the total value of his cash, gold and silver. This year, his Zakat Al Mal was £555.

All of the Zakat money is collected and sent to a welfare organisation, which then sends it to the people who need it. There are 1.6 million Muslims in the UK and the Zakat adds up to a lot of money which really helps the poor.

I hope you can read this e-mail out on the show next week.

Best wishes,

Abdul Kareem


This is my local mosque where we take the Zakat.

Saving and Giving

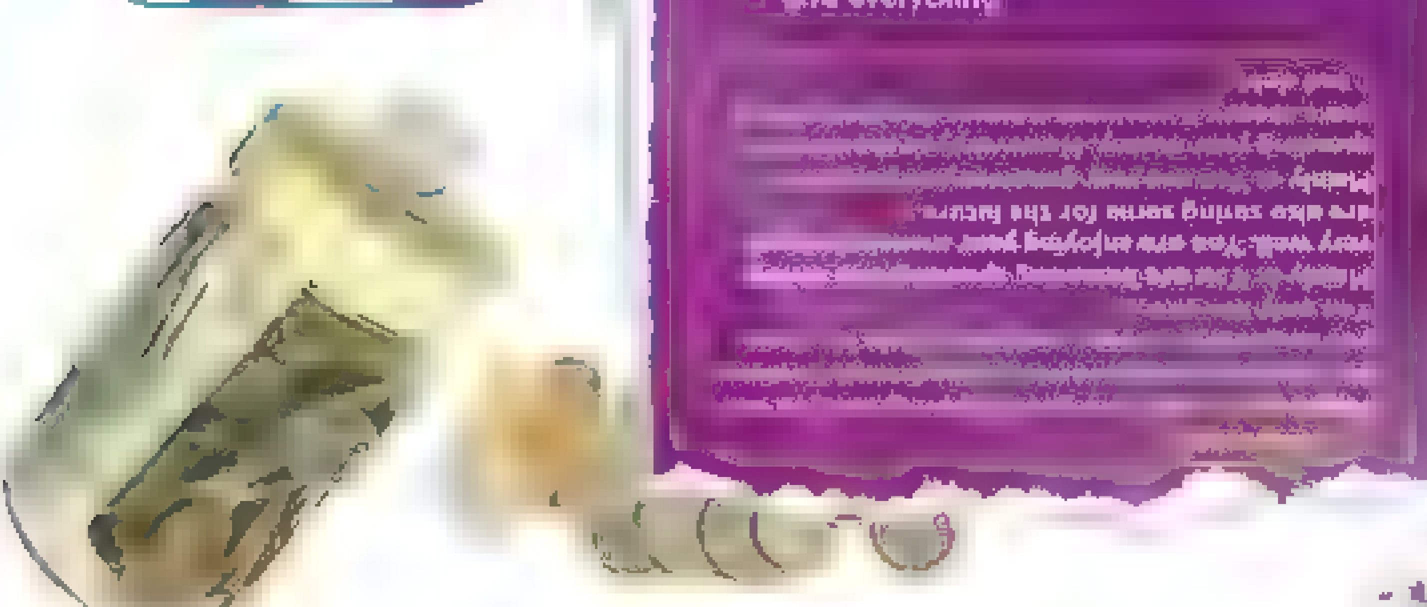
In 1987 a museum in England sold a rare 1950s Mercedes Grand Prix W 196 racing car for £1.5 million. The person who bought the car sold it for £24 million in 1990. If rare or important things are given to museums, do you think they should sell them? Why?

In 2003, Stuart Weitzman designed a pair of shoes which were woven from platinum thread and set with 642 rubies, valued at £1 million. Would you buy a pair of shoes for £1 million. Why?

Are you a saver?

Do the quiz below and find out how good you are at saving money. Write your answers in your exercise book.

1. [illegible] much do you save?
   a. all of it
   b. some of it
   c. none of it
2. [illegible] take with you?
   a. all of your money
   b. some money
   c. no money
3. [illegible] buy, what do you do?
   a. buy neither of them
   b. buy one of them
   c. buy both of them
4. [illegible] saved half of the money. Which of the following do you do?
   a. [illegible] money
   b. [illegible] month during the next year
   c. borrow the other half from a bank and pay the bank next year
5. [illegible] charity, what do you do?
   a. give a small amount
   b. give quite a lot
   c. give everything



Look at the advertisements below and match them to a person from activity 3 or page 34 of the Skills Book.

a

Introducing the new

Freedom Account!

The new Freedom Account is designed for people on the move. If you need to withdraw money when the banks are closed, this is the account for you.

... and it's free! This means that you can get your money anywhere and at any time.

That's not all!

When you open a Freedom Account you will receive a free diary and pen.

Fill in the application form and take it to your local IBO branch today. All you need is a minimum of 200 rials and you can open a Freedom Account.

Remember:
You can go, go, go
With the IBO!

b

The Gold Coin Account offers:

- A cheque book
- A cash card
- ...
- ...

Open a Gold Coin Account at the Bank ...

... Bank ...

Keep ...

Branches ...

c

Grand Oman Bank

... that helps you save.

You can open a

... you start to save your money, we help you save by stopping you spending! Limited opportunities to withdraw money, but lots of chances to win and become a millionaire!

Terms and conditions:

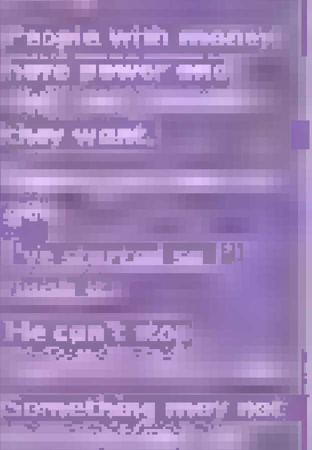
- A limited withdrawal of 50 rials each month for 3 years
- The account cannot be closed for 3 years
- A minimum deposit of 50 rials every year
- A monthly chance to win 1 million rials in the ... Competition
- No cheque book ...

Safe Saving with Grand Oman Bank!

In groups, read the idioms about money and try to match them to their meaning. Write your answers in your exercise book.

His money is burning a hole in his pocket

All that glitters is not gold.

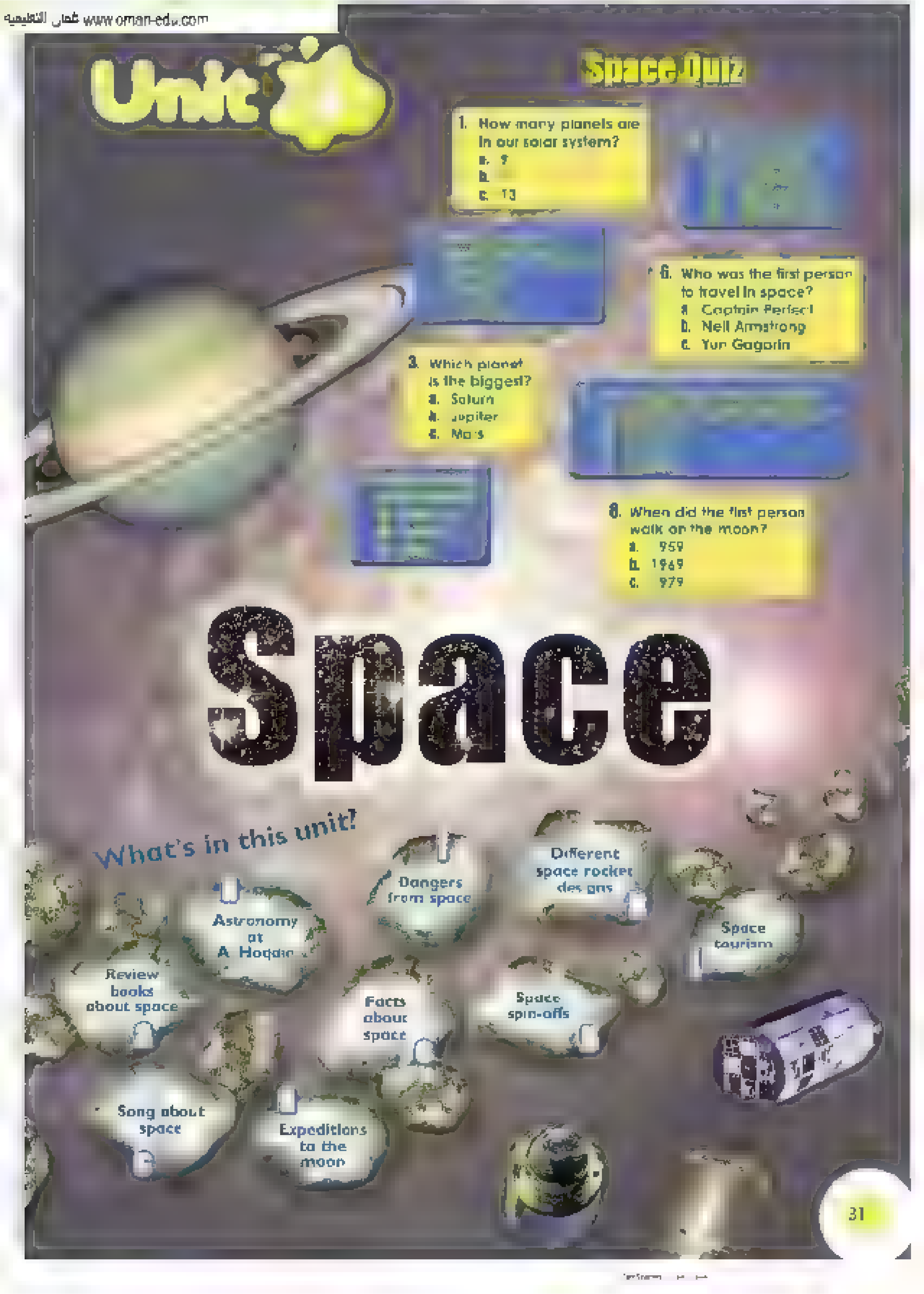


Money doesn't grow on trees

In for a penny, in for a pound

He's got money to burn!

Money talks!


Unit 4
Space Quiz
1. How many planets are in our solar system?
a. 9
b.
c. 13
6. Who was the first person to travel in space?
a. Captain Perfect
b. Neil Armstrong
c. Yuri Gagarin
3. Which planet is the biggest?
a. Saturn
b. Jupiter
c. Mars
8. When did the first person walk on the moon?
a. 959
b. 1969
c. 979
Space
What's in this unit?
Dangers from space
Different space rocket designs
Astronomy at A Hoqain
Space tourism
Review books about space
Facts about space
Space spin-offs
Song about space
Expeditions to the moon

Our Solar

Did you know?

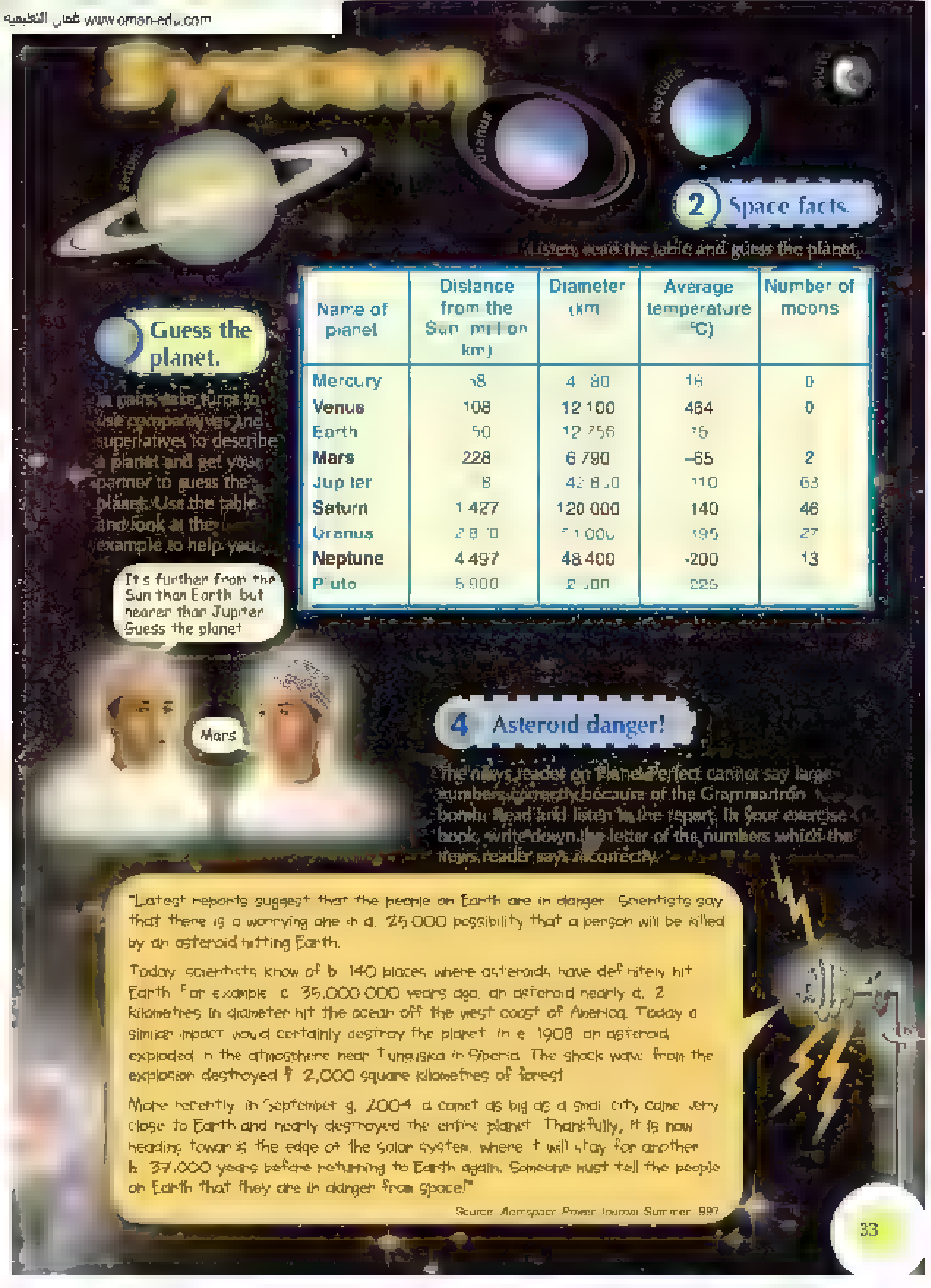
Read the texts below and answer the true/false questions in activity [illegible] on page 36 of the Skills Book.

The Sun is the largest star in our solar system. However there are many other stars in our [illegible] which are bigger, hotter or older. The Sun is a huge ball of gas which is [illegible] million km in diameter. The centre of the Sun is 15 million °C. The Sun releases heat and light into the solar system. Explosions on the surface of the Sun are called sun flares and sometimes these can stop satellite televisions and radios from working properly. The Sun also has sunspots, which are cooler areas on the surface. Astronomers think that the Sun is about 4.5 billion years old and that after [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible] burning and the solar system will [illegible].

Jupiter is the biggest planet in our solar system. It is bigger and heavier than all of the other planets added together. In 1609 the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei, using the first telescope, discovered that Jupiter had sixteen moons. One of the moons orbiting Jupiter is bigger than the planet Mercury. Jupiter is a huge ball of liquid surrounded with gas clouds. Nearly [illegible] [illegible] ago, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a large [illegible] spot on Jupiter. This spot [illegible] a massive storm [illegible] Jupiter's atmosphere.

The moon goes around Earth. It is the only place that people have ever visited in space because it is nearer than the planets. From Earth, it is possible to see many [illegible] craters on the surface of the moon where [illegible] have crashed into it. The moon orbits Earth at about 3,700 km an hour and it takes the moon 27.3 days to go around Earth once. The gravity on the moon's surface is only one-sixth that of Earth. However, it is enough to make the ocean tides on Earth. When the moon is opposite an ocean, the pull is strongest and there is a low tide. When the moon is not opposite an ocean the pull is less and the tide is high.

People have known about comets for hundreds of years. The Chinese made the first recorded sightings of comets in [illegible] BC. Comets travel on long orbits around the Sun and they often pass Earth quite regularly. Haley's comet, for example appears about every 76 years. As a comet gets close to the Sun it gets hotter and often gets a long tail of gas and dust flowing behind it. These tails can be 10 million km long. In fact, the name [illegible] [illegible] the Greek meaning "long-haired" because their long tails look like long hair streaming out behind them.



System

2 Space facts

Listen, read the table and guess the planet.

Name of planet	Distance from the Sun (million km)	Diameter (km)	Average temperature (°C)	Number of moons
Mercury	[illegible]8	4 [illegible]80	[illegible]	0
Venus	108	12 100	464	0
Earth	[illegible]50	12 756	[illegible]5	[illegible]
Mars	228	6 790	–65	2
Jupiter	[illegible]8	[illegible]	[illegible]110	63
Saturn	1 427	120 000	140	46
Uranus	[illegible]	[illegible]1 000	[illegible]95	27
Neptune	4 497	48 400	-200	13
Pluto	5 900	2 [illegible]00	[illegible]225	[illegible]

Guess the planet.

In pairs, take turns to use comparatives and superlatives to describe a planet and get your partner to guess the planet. Use the table and look at the example to help you.

4 Asteroid danger!

The news reader on Planet Perfect cannot say large numbers correctly because of the Grammartron bomb. Read and listen to the report. In your exercise book, write down the letter of the numbers which the news reader says incorrectly.

"Latest reports suggest that the people on Earth are in danger. Scientists say that there is a worrying one in a. 25 000 possibility that a person will be killed by an asteroid hitting Earth.

Today, scientists know of b. 140 places where asteroids have definitely hit Earth. For example, c. 35,000 000 years ago, an asteroid nearly d. 2 kilometres in diameter hit the ocean off the west coast of America. Today a similar impact would certainly destroy the planet. In e. 1908 an asteroid exploded in the atmosphere near Tunguska in Siberia. The shock wave from the explosion destroyed f. 2,000 square kilometres of forest.

More recently, in September g. 2004 a comet as big as a small city came very close to Earth and nearly destroyed the entire planet. Thankfully, it is now heading towards the edge of the solar system, where it will stay for another h. 37,000 years before returning to Earth again. Someone must tell the people on Earth that they are in danger from space!"

Source: Aerospace Power Journal Summer [illegible]997

Astronomy

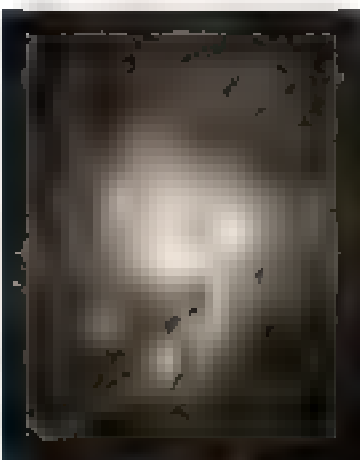
1 Look at the newspaper [illegible] questions in your groups.

Star shines at Al Hoqain

Astronomy and the Arab world have been linked together since ancient times. Famous Arab astronomers include Sinan ibn Thabit ibn Qurra, who studied the movement of the Sun in the [illegible]th century and Nasir Al-Din Tusi, who made accurate tables of planetary movements in the late [illegible]th century.

Today, in the small village of Al-Hoqain in Batinah South, history is repeating [illegible]. An amazing man called Yusuf bin Zahir bin Mohammed Saleh Al-Saidi is following in the footsteps of famous Arab astronomers.

When he was a child Yusuf was fascinated by the glittering stars in the clear night sky above his village. He used to gaze up at the skies and ask himself questions such as, "Why do some stars shine and others disappear?" and, "How do the stars move?"



A spiral galaxy

One day, when he was in Grade 5, he had a really interesting Science lesson about space. His Science teacher encouraged Yusuf to collect information on space. Day after day, Yusuf collected books and articles until he made himself a valuable library.

Then, in 199[illegible], Yusuf bought himself a telescope. The first thing he saw was the moon with its deep craters, high mountains and flat plains. Then, as he moved the telescope across the night sky, he was amazed at what he could see. Saturn sat spinning inside its colourful rings, Jupiter boiled with fiery gases and strange galaxies stretched themselves out into deep space, each one containing millions of stars.

In 1997, Yusuf decided to build an observatory. It was very difficult and Yusuf had to push himself to finish it. In 200[illegible], the observatory was finally completed. It is a round room which is 6 metres in diameter containing a telescope, computers, cameras and a library of more than [illegible]500 books.

Yusuf believes that in every Omani house, there is someone who can talk about the stars and planets. Omani farmers use the stars to tell them when to plant crops; fishermen and travellers use the stars to guide them. Talk to your family and find out some information on the stars. You might surprise yourself and become the next great Arab astronomer!

Source: Al Watan Newspaper 10 [illegible] 04

Focus Questions

1 What is the topic of the text?

2 Who is the article about?

3 Which paragraph is about school?

4 Which paragraph is about making something?

5 What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

2 Interview.

1 When you were a child, looking at the stars, what did you do?
2 What did you do with the books and articles you collected?
3 What did you do in 1992?
4 Was the observatory easy to build?

a It was very difficult and I had to push myself to finish it.
b I bought myself a telescope.
c I used to ask myself questions.
d I made myself a valuable library.

3 Join the space race!

First, read the advertisement and decide if you are fit enough to become an astronaut. Then listen to Talib and decide if he will be accepted on the training programme.

NOSA

National Omani Space Astronauts

NOSA are currently recruiting for their next Omani Youth Astronauts (OYA) initial training programme starting in May at the Ras Al Hadd Space Centre.

Are you fit enough to join the Space Race?

Applicants should:

- be under [illegible] years old
- be less than [illegible].8m tall
- have a resting pulse rate of between [illegible] and [illegible] beats per minute
- exercise for 20 minutes each day
- have studied English for more than 8 years
- be able to work in small spaces
- be able to work under pressure
- be able to work in a team
- have a mental fitness greater than 5 points

Applicants can find the mental fitness test on-line at www.OYA.NOSA.com

For further details contact: OYA@NOSA.com

All applicants will complete a telephone interview and selection will be made in March.

4 Lift-off problem!

[illegible] 2 on page 42 of your Skills Book.

Join the sentences with when.	The launch of Oman Rocket 3 was cancelled yesterday. There were problems during lift-off.
Join the sentences with while.	The astronauts were getting ready for the countdown. A herd of goats broke through the fence.
Join the sentences [illegible]	The workers removed the goats. It took 3 hours to remove them.
Join the sentences with where.	One of the astronauts, Talib Mustafa, became ill. They were waiting in the rocket.
Join the sentences with because.	The launch was stopped. Talib had to go to hospital.
Join the sentences with when.	The next launch will be next week. A trainee astronaut will replace Talib.

1 Space spin-offs.

Read the text below. Match [illegible]

1 A space spin-off is [illegible] lost control. A space spin-off is an invention that has been used [illegible] space, but now has been changed for use in the home. The chances are that at some point in your life you have used something that began life as an experiment in space, or was used in space.

Here are some famous space spin-offs.

2 [illegible] help locate the millions of spacecraft parts needed when they were building rockets.

3 Not so long ago, many fire fighters used to get burnt badly. Whenever they fought fires, they had to be careful to keep away from the flames and not go inside buildings. This was true until [illegible] made from fire resistant materials was introduced. This was first developed for space suits for use by astronauts.

4 Playing games on computers was not so easy when you had to use the keys on the keyboard to help move the characters around the screen. After [illegible] were invented, it became much easier to move characters around. [illegible] were used to help control spacecraft. However, this didn't make the games any easier to play!

5 Many electrical machines around the house use cables to connect to electricity to make them work. Electrical cables make some jobs like cleaning hard to reach places, cutting high branches off bushes, or drilling holes in walls quite difficult. After [illegible] were invented, many jobs around the home became much easier. These were first used by astronauts to help collect moon rock and mend space equipment.

2 A report on satellites

Read the report and complete activity [illegible] on page 44 of the Skills Book.

Read and complete activity [illegible] on page [illegible] of the Skills Book.

When you look up at the [illegible] sky, what do you see? The chances are that as well as the moon and the stars, you're also seeing a lot of rubbish or space junk. Space junk is made up of old satellites and pieces of rockets that have been left behind. In fact, since [illegible] the amount of space debris has doubled every year.

It is estimated that there are about 9,000 pieces of large space debris, weighing in total about 4.2 million kilogrammes, floating above the earth. Additionally, there are 4 million small pieces which have all been left behind by space explorers.

The frightening thing about these facts is that not only is there a lot of rubbish in space, but much of it is travelling at [illegible] kilometres an hour. There is some evidence of space debris hitting satellites and damaging them. However, imagine the damage a piece of space junk could do to an astronaut in space or a human on the ground!

Space is certainly a more dangerous place since humans started to explore it.

Focus questions

1. How many paragraphs are there?
2. What does the picture show?
3. Who could only travel into space at first?
4. What is SS an abbreviation for?
5. Who will be able to go on the SS?
6. Where might we take holidays in the future?

1 Read and answer

Get ready with your spacesuit!

By Sammy Silver

Not long ago, people looked up at the stars and wondered what was out there. What we looked on as first astronauts in rockets started to travel into space, the moon and planets beyond. These adventures were just for a few specially trained people who were willing to face the dangers of space to further the knowledge of humankind.

The SS taking off on a training flight

That was true until the 'Spaceship Spectacular' or 'SS' was invented. The SS is the first privately owned and operated space vehicle to have won the $10 million Ansari X prize money for travelling into space and safely back to Earth with passengers.

We asked officials at the SS office, "What does this mean for the average person on the street?"

"Winning the Ansari X prize makes us feel confident that in a few years everyone will be able to travel into space. In the same way we catch planes these days to another city or country, in a few years' time we'll be able to catch the SS for a trip round Earth, a visit to a space station, the moon or even Mars."

There you have it, ladies and gentlemen. Get ready with your spacesuit. Your holidays are about to become more interesting than ever. Before you book your next holiday, you may want to look out for advertisements like these.

Sources: www.virgingalactic.com
www.cnn.com

Take a look

Lift Off!

2 SS Space Tours

Choose a different advertisement

Mystery Moon Tour

Make the most of our Mystery Moon tour. The SS super shuttle is well equipped to make your week-long visit to our nearest neighbour a comfortable experience you'll wish to repeat time and time again. Once on Mystery Moon Base 1, you may want to see where the first men landed on the moon. You may choose to play weightless golf and see how far you can hit the ball in one stroke. Otherwise, relax in the swimming pool on Mystery Moon Base 1 and watch the world go by.

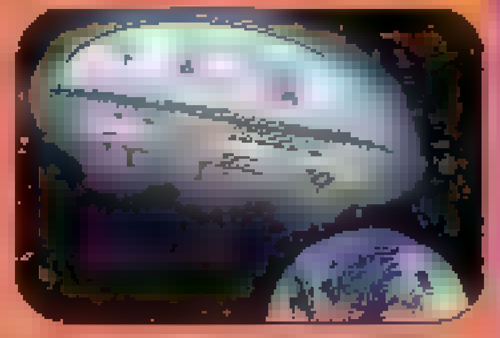
Don't forget to book on-line.
Don't forget your cameras.

Cost: $[illegible]500 per adult
$[illegible]00 per child
Additional Costs:
First moon landing site $[illegible]00 per adult, $50 per child
Moon golf $[illegible]0 per game or $50 for the week
Moon walk $[illegible]0 per adult, $5 per child
Dates: All year round, subject to seat availability and weather
Times: Every Saturday at [illegible].00
Departure: Earth Space Centres in Australia, India and South Africa

Space Station City

[illegible] you? [illegible] for you? Then try a visit to Space Station City. You'll find everything you ever wanted [illegible]. Our [illegible] telescope will let you see the stars and planets [illegible] you have never seen them before. The space sports centre [illegible] weightless atmosphere [illegible] you play games [illegible] you have imagined. You can choose from a 3-day mini break or a longer one-week holiday. Whatever you decide, we'll make your stay as [illegible] as possible.

Don't forget to book on-line.
Don't forget your cameras.



Cost: [illegible]
$[illegible]0 per adult, $500 per child
[illegible]
$[illegible] per adult, $[illegible] per child
Dates: All year round, subject to seat availability and weather
Times: [illegible]
Departure: Earth Space Centres in [illegible] and Qatar

c

Earth Space Cruise

Buckle up for the ride of your life. The engines have started and you're on board the SS super shuttle bound for outer space. This two-hour spectacular space cruise round Earth is bound to please anyone who has never stepped off the planet before. If you're brave enough, you may even want to take a space walk.

You'll hear the roar of the engines as we climb out of Earth's orbit. You'll feel the speed push you back into the comfortable space seats. You'll sense the feeling of being weightless as the force of gravity is left behind and the emptiness of space opens up before your very eyes.

Don't forget to book on-line.
Don't forget your cameras.

Cost: $500 per adult, $250 per child
Dates: All year round, subject to seat availability and weather
Times: Every hour from 09.30 to 5.00
Departure: Earth Space Centres in USA, UAE, China and Spain

Club Talk.

A Usually we go to Egypt for our holidays but this year we decided to be a little bit more adventurous. I'd never been into space before and wanted to know what it would be like. I always thought it would be dangerous, but those people at SS Tours really made me feel safe.

As it was my first time, we decided not to go too far or for too long, just in case I didn't like it. I tell you, it was amazing. When the engines on the spaceship started off, the noise was so loud. Before I knew it we were there, in space.

We only cruised around Earth five times before we returned to Earth. It was wonderful to see our planet so beautiful and blue. I'll never forget looking at Oman from space ... so spectacular. I know it was a short trip but it was worth every penny. Oh yes, before I forget, remember to take your camera with you!

B I went on the space cruise last year and didn't have enough money to go to the moon, so this seemed the best thing to do. The trip up was quick and easy, so you had lots of time to really enjoy yourself when there. I like looking at the stars, so the clear dark sky, free of clouds, was perfect for observing them. It's great to see Earth and the moon at the same time. The three days passed so peacefully and I felt really relaxed when we returned to Earth. It was worth every penny. Oh yes, remember to take your camera with you.

C That was really a great holiday. I'd never imagined that it would be quite like that. It was strange looking up at that black sky and seeing Earth so small and far away. The walk outside the base was really exciting. I didn't think the surface would be as dusty as it was and when we picked up the rocks, they felt as light as feathers. Some might say that it was a little bit too expensive, but I thought that it was worth it. Oh yes, don't forget your camera.

Focus Questions

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2 Interview a partner.

Use the questions below, or any questions you can think of, to interview a partner about the unit you have just completed. Then write a paragraph about the unit in your exercise book.

What did you enjoy about the unit? Why?

What language did you learn in the unit?

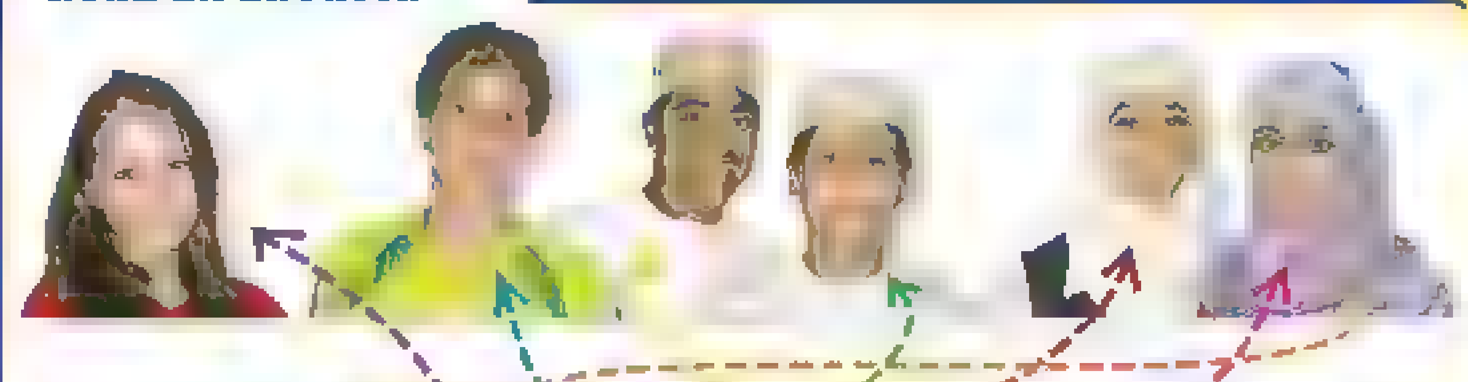
What will you do to improve your English?

What didn't you enjoy about the unit? Why?

How well did you do the project?

Issue no. 3

Read all about it!



1 The quiz looks interesting. It really gets you thinking about yourself and your friends.

2 Stories are my favourite, so I think I'll enjoy reading the Star Stories.

3 I really like the fantastic new section for ITC adverts. It's a great chance to buy a bargain.

4 I like different kinds of poems and I think the limericks will be fun to read.

5 My feeling is that the interviews will give me ideas on how to become famous.

6 I think it's really difficult writing stories, so I hope the magazine will give me some help.

7 In my opinion, Grade 9 students should be raising more money for charity, so I think I'll enter the competition with my friends.

New Grade 9 edition!
Special new features inside!

Letter from the Editor

The Editor
www.edcc.com

Thanks to everyone who sent in letters. Here are two letters about friends to start you thinking and don't forget to try the quiz and find out if you are a good friend.

Dear Editor,

Hi, I really enjoy reading about ITC members, but something happened to me recently that made me think about my friends.

Jenny was my best friend for three years and we used to do everything together. However, last month, Jenny made a new friend called Lucy. They met through the ITC.

Now Jenny has changed. She always tells me about her problems, but she never listens to me. In fact, she's only nice to me when she wants something. She borrows my scarves, but I can't borrow hers! [illegible] told Jenny [illegible] of my secrets and then she told them to Lucy. In fact, she only thinks about herself and it really isn't fun being with her anymore.

I don't think Jenny has been a good friend. What do you think?

Best wishes,

Rose Smith

A

Dear Editor,

Last summer, I went on the ITC football camp in the Middle East. It was great fun because I made a great new friend!

One day, I hurt myself while I was playing football and I had to rest in the tent for a couple of days. Zahran stayed with me. We talked and played board games so I didn't get bored.

Zahran never thinks of himself. He always puts his friends first. He has a lot of respect for them. Although we have different opinions on some things, he never expects me to agree with him.

Now, we send e-mails every day. His family has asked me to visit, so I'm going to stay with them in the summer.

Thanks to the ITC, I have a brilliant new friend!

Basim Basat

B

1. You told your best friend a secret and they told someone else. What would you do?

a Stop being friends.

b Tell your friend why you are upset.

[illegible] Never tell your friend secrets again.

2. Your best friend forgot to bring their English book to school. What would you do?

a Share your English book.

b Tell the teacher.

c Tell your friend not to worry.

3. You go out to the coffee shop with your friends. You can't eat much but when the bill comes, your friends want you to pay the same as them. What do you do?

a You don't worry about the money and you pay the same as your friends.

b You get angry, but you don't say anything.

c You tell them it's not fair and ask them to look at the bill again.

4. You have spent a long time doing some difficult homework. Your friend hasn't started and asks for your help. What do you do?

a Let your friend copy your work.

b Offer to help your friend.

[illegible] Give your work to your teacher so your friend can't copy it.

5. Your friend wants to borrow your computer game, but you don't want to lend it to them. What would you say?

a "Sorry, but I don't want to lend it to anyone."

b "Buy your own computer game!"

c "Yes, of course."

Add up your score and see if you are a good friend.

1	2	3	4	5
a [illegible]	a 3	a 3	a [illegible]	a 2
b 3	b [illegible]	b [illegible]	b 3	b [illegible]
c 2	c 2	c 2	c 2	c 3

Conservation Corner

Eye in the sky

Satellites help us know more about conservation on Earth. The photographs which satellites send help us monitor emergencies as they happen, keep track of floods, identify pollution in the water and find burning fires. They can show us how cities are growing and deserts are spreading.

Many of the photographs are evidence of the way people threaten our planet. They show rain forests disappearing by 130 000 square kilometres each year to farming and industry. They show cities getting bigger and bigger and show how the increasing population puts pressure on resources. They show huge lakes getting smaller and smaller because of climate change and rivers drying up because of farming.

Satellite photographs provide evidence that we must all look after Earth.

Ozone

In July 2004, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sent the Aura satellite into orbit to examine ozone, climate change and air quality. This fantastic satellite has already sent back detailed measurements of ozone levels and provided new photographs of the ozone hole over Antarctica. This satellite has helped us understand more about the ozone layer.

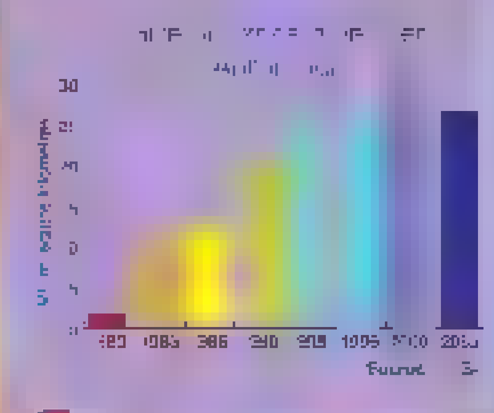
The ozone layer protects the Earth from the Sun's radiation and stops people getting skin cancer. The graph below shows that although the size of the ozone layer changes from year to year, it has got bigger since 1970 when records began.

Many scientists think the ozone layer is being destroyed by pollution from industry and chemicals. People can also help protect the ozone layer by using cars less often and using fewer air sprays in the home.

12–15
You are honest with your friends and they can trust you. Your friends are important to you and you are a great friend.

9–11
You try to be helpful to your friends, but you are not honest enough with them. You are quite a good friend, but you can be better.

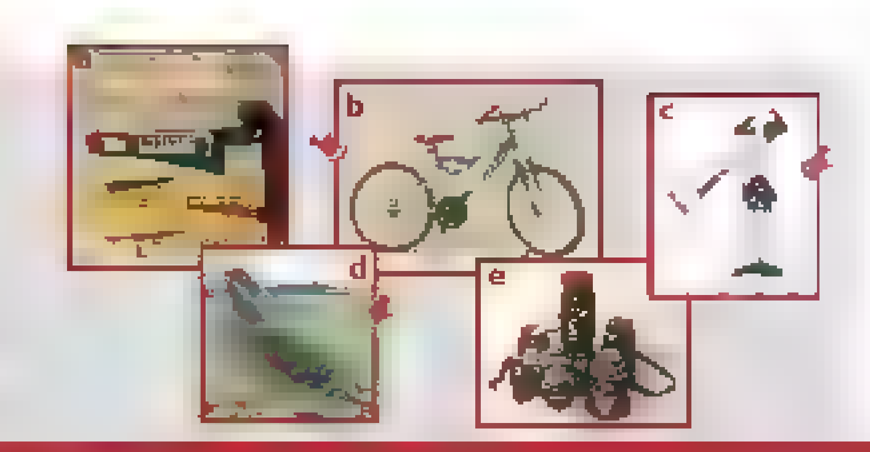
5–8
You are not honest with your friends and you are not willing to make an effort for them. You are a bad friend.



b

CLASSIFIEDS

Have you got money to burn? Have you got something to sell? This is the chance for ITC members to buy and sell. Send in your advertisements for the next issue.



For sale

1. Excellent racing pigeons for sale. Strong skeletons, sharp wings and good chest fronts. Great for racing, only 1 rial each.
Contact 93[illegible]1

2. New computer for sale. Unwanted gift – never used. 150 rials.
Contact 807622 weekdays only.

3. Second-hand bicycle for sale. Boy's bicycle with 61cm wheels. Suitable for 8 years and under. 5 rials.
Contact 544322

4. Various computer games for quick sale. [illegible] rial for [illegible]0 games.
Contact 312798 from 9am to 4pm daily. Not weekends.

5. Camera for sale. Excellent condition. 2 years old, rarely used. Includes bag and extra lenses. RO 80.
Contact 44822[illegible]. Weekends only.

6. Telescope for sale. See the planets and stars for only 100 rials. Real reason for sale – moved to city.
Contact 546254 after 6pm.

7. Walkman. Good condition. 1998 model. Headphones and cassettes included. OR 3.
Contact 8[illegible]445

8. Various board games for sale. Good condition and bargain price. OR [illegible]0 for everything.
Contact 456477

Wanted

a. I'm looking for a new free time activity to do with my friends. No garden so it must be for inside the house. It must cost less than OR 12.
Contact [illegible]3243

b. Looking for a computer. Should be good condition.
Contact 454545

c. Help! I'm looking for free time ideas for the summer holidays. I like animals and I like being outside. Must be cheap, all suggestions welcome!
Contact 909009

d. My family is going to Australia and I'm looking for entertainment on the flight. Want a small walkman or computer under 5 rials.
Contact 445082 weekdays only.

e. Bicycle wanted for my 16 year old brother. Must be good condition.
Contact 33987[illegible]

f. Mad about space. Want to buy anything on the topic of space.
Contact 778866

g. Going on holiday to Europe and I want to take photos. Must cost less than [illegible]00 rials.
Contact 560021

h. Games, games, games. Second-hand games wanted by the best computer game shop in the Al [illegible]. All computer games considered.
Contact 71[illegible]359 mornings and evenings.

Go competition crazy!

Make money do good!

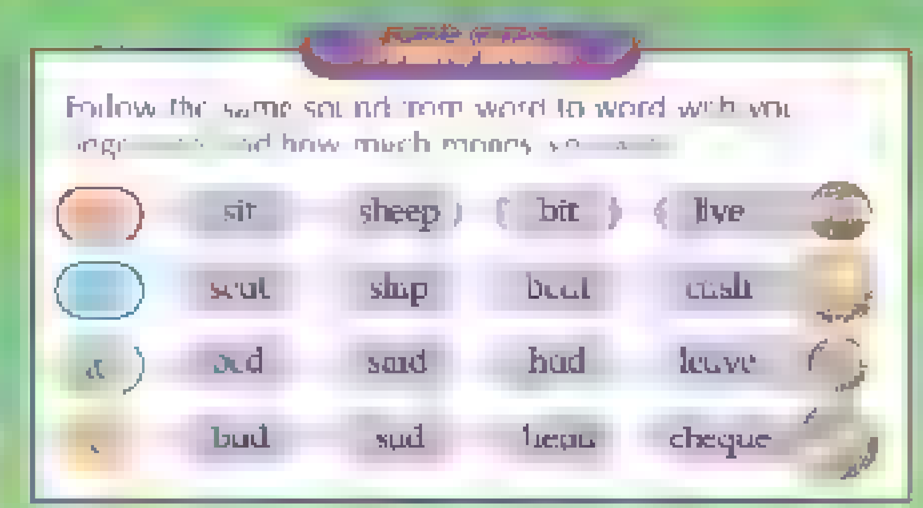
What do you do with your small coins? Do you have hundreds of coins weighing you down?

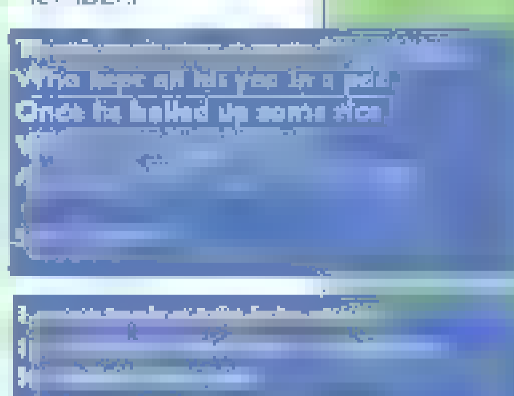
During the month of December, the ITC is collecting small coins for charity. Any currency and any value! All ITC members are invited to empty their pockets, purses and bags and take their small coins to ITC collection desks in their schools.

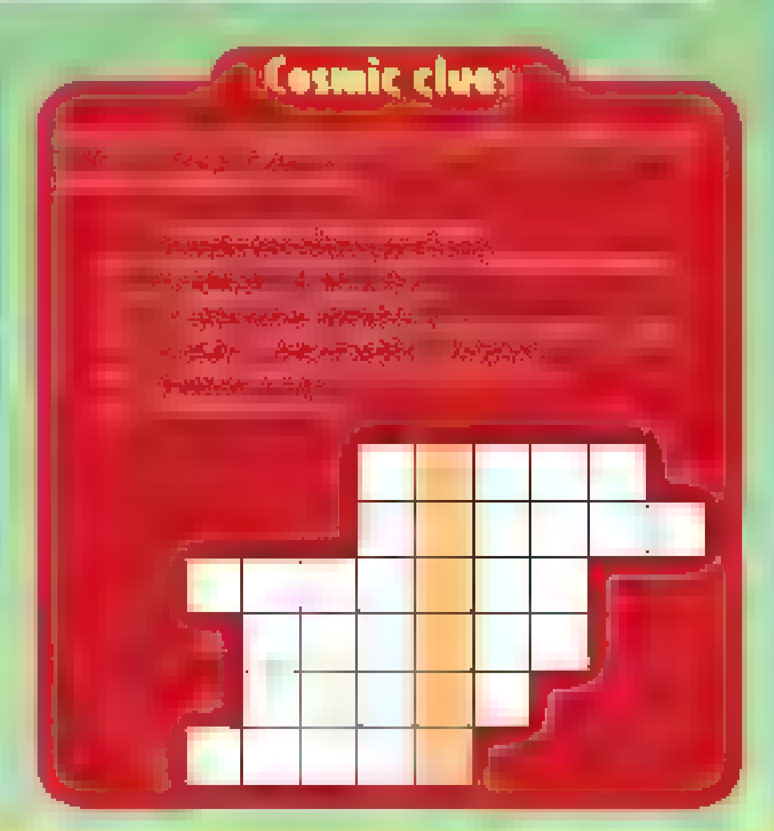
So don't let all of those small coins annoy you! Give them to the ITC where they can add up to a lot of money and do some good!

BRAIN BUSTERS

Read more poems and solve more puzzles sent in by ITC members







What's on?

Yuri's Life

A talk by author K. Dowling about his latest book, a biography of Yuri Gagarin

Every evening, for one week starting November 6th

Bookworm's Bookstore
High Street
Brighton

Talk starts
7pm

Men on Mars!

The best band playing the best music

Southport Ha

Teens Talk!

The popular TV show comes to ...ptonville

Come and join in with your own opinions about a variety of important issues

Thursday 14th December
4–6pm

Central Museum

Winners Announced!

Reporter: Shenaz Saleem

The Grand Hotel Muscat was the setting for the first 'Writer's Write' competition, which was launched last year as part of Oman's Cultural Festival. The competition aims to encourage students to write poetry and stories and is the first of its kind in Oman.

Ahmed Ali, who is the event's manager, welcomed all 200 participants of the competition. In addition to the participants, guests representing the organisations that had sponsored the event were present at the awards ceremony.

Before he awarded the prizes, Ahmed Ali thanked all the students who had participated in the competition. He said "All the stories and poems were of a high standard and show that writing in Oman has a bright future." He went on to thank all the organisations that had contributed so generously to supporting the competition.

The winners in the 'Young Writers' category, which was for 8 to 12 year olds, were:

Ali Hamed for Best Fictional Story, 'Trouble for Captain Perfect'

Raya Ibrahim with her certificate

Raya Ibrahim for Best Factual Story, 'Teen Troubles'

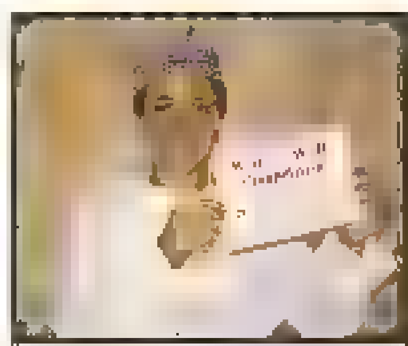
Susan George for Best Poem, 'My Earth'

The winners in the 'Young Teen Writers' category, which was for 13 to 19 year olds, were:

Ahmed Hamza for Best Fictional Story, 'Caught'

Najma Saleem for Best Factual Story, 'Don't Smoke'

Salman Naseem for Best Poem, 'The Conservation Poem'


Ahmed Hamza with his certificate

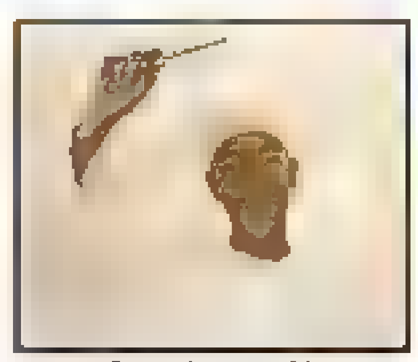
All winners in the above categories won OR 100 each, while Salman Naseem received an additional OR 500 as winner of The Golden Pen award. This was for the best author of the competition.

After watching the ceremony, we had the chance to interview Salman, who had the following to say.

"Congratulations Salman, how do you feel about winning The Golden Pen award?"

"I feel great, thanks. I didn't believe that I could win until I heard my name being called out."

"Tell our readers a little bit about your poem."


Salman Naseem with The Golden Pen award

"Well, I wrote it to remind people that we must look after everything on our planet. If we don't conserve the things we have, one day we'll have nothing for our children, or our children's children to enjoy."

"A very important message, but why a poem and not a story?"

"I really enjoy writing poems. Whenever I start writing, all I can think of is words that rhyme. That's why I like writing poetry."

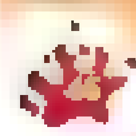
"What will you do now that you have won the prize for best author?"

"Carry on writing. I think it's important to write, because to read is to write and to write is to read."

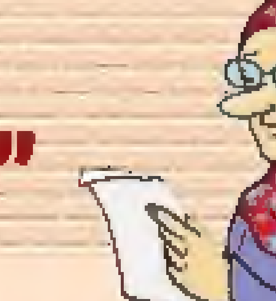
"Thank you Salman, we wish you the best."

"Thank you."

Well, there you have it readers, wise words from a wise writer. If you wish to become a wise writer like Salman, maybe you could enter next year's competition. Who knows, maybe you could also be the winner of The Golden Pen award.



Aunt Aysha says, "Break that block!"



Dear Readers,

In Unit 2, we spent a lot of time thinking about writing and how to become a better writer. One of the biggest problems many writers have is called 'writer's block'. This is when a writer has problems thinking of ideas for their writing. Here are some creative ideas which some ITC members have sent in. You could try these ideas on your own, with a partner, or a group of others to help you get started on that perfect story. Remember – whichever ideas you choose, the most important thing is **to read is to write and to write is to read.**

Heading A

Get a friend to choose a photograph from a magazine or a newspaper. They should cut out the picture and give it to you to look at. They should not tell you which story the picture is about. If you know the story the picture is about, then get your friend to choose another picture for you.

When you have selected the picture, look at it and decide what the picture tells you. Ask yourself lots of 'Wh-' questions, such as Who is in the picture? What is happening? Where are they? etc. and brainstorm as many ideas as you can. Think about what happened BEFORE the picture was taken. Think about what happened AFTER the picture was taken. Use these ideas to help you write your story.

Abdul Hamza, Pakistan

Heading B

You have to work with five people to write different stories. Give everyone a piece of paper. On their piece of paper, people have to write two lines – NOT two sentences – of a story on their own. When they have written their two lines, they have to pass on their piece of paper to the person sitting next to them. You should now have a new piece of paper. Read what has been written and write two more lines to the story. Try to follow on with what has been written before. Again, when you have finished, pass on the piece of paper to the next person. Continue doing this until everyone has written on all the pieces of paper. Now read out all the stories.

John Field, UK

Heading C

Choose three or four characters from different stories you have read. Write a new story with all the characters in. For example, you may write about Dr Do-a-lot and Intissar the inventive inventor making a new machine to help Dr. Do-a-lot speak to the animals OR Captain Perfect and Sherlock Holmes helping the characters from the 'Riddle Mystery' solve a new puzzle.

Maha Ali, Oman

Heading D

Choose any article from a newspaper or a magazine. The article should have about 100 words. Use the words in the article to write about any topic that you want to. You can choose only the words in the article. You can use the same words as many times as you want. You can write the words in any order you want. You may decide not to use all of the words in the article. You may find it helpful to cut up the words in the article and move them round on a piece of paper to help you brainstorm ideas.

Susan Kelly, Australia

Stars and Constellations

1. A short history lesson

When you look up at the night sky, you will see lots of stars. Many of these stars form patterns called constellations. In the past, people from different parts of the world looked at the constellations and saw pictures and made up stories about them. Many of these fictional stories became legends and fables which are still told today.

Over 1,500 years ago, the ancient Greeks and Romans told many stories about the stars. Many of these stories were told from person to person so many were not written down and lost. However, it was Arab astronomers from North Africa and Spain who wrote down many of the stories. This is one of the reasons why many of the names of stars come from the Arabic language, for example Aldhanab (the Tail) and Altair (the Bird).

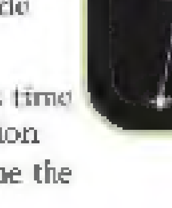
2. Scorpio

The ancient people of the Pacific tell stories of the stars being born in a canoe. Scorpio was thought to be the tail of the canoe. This is not surprising, because canoes were very important in the Pacific islands. They were used to travel from island to island and for fishing.

3. Cancer

The constellation of Cancer was seen by the Ancient Greeks to be the shape of a crab. The Ancient Greeks told the story of a strong man called Hercules who was the strongest man on Earth. One day a woman called Hera, who had many special powers, was angry with Hercules. She sent a giant monster to fight Hercules. While he was fighting the monster, Hera also sent Cancer the crab to bite Hercules' foot so that the monster could win. However, Hercules stepped on the crab and crushed it. Hera was sad to see Cancer crushed and used her special powers to place it amongst the stars.

4. Orion



The Ancient Greeks used to tell stories about a great hunter called Orion. Orion thought he was very special and used to say he was the strongest person. This made the King very angry because people started to say that Orion was stronger than the King.

The King asked Orion to show how strong he was by getting rid of all the dangerous creatures. He thought that Orion wouldn't be strong enough to fight all of the creatures. However, Orion managed to kill all the creatures which made the King even angrier.

Then the King thought that maybe something smaller could hurt Orion. This time the King sent a small scorpion. The scorpion stung Orion and killed him. Orion then became the stars in the constellation of Orion, while the scorpion became the constellation of Scorpio.

Stories adapted from www.wmum.ac.uk

Club Corner Interviews

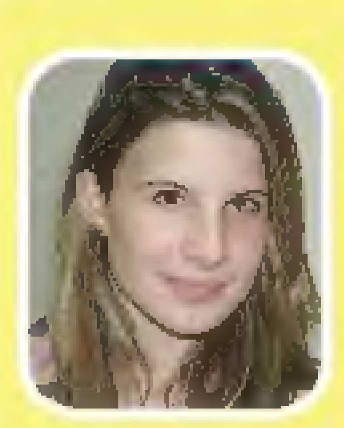
Dear Readers,

Here are parts of interviews we carried out with some famous ITC members. We hope what they have to say will encourage you to do your best and become a famous teen yourself. We hope you enjoy reading what they have to say. Happy reading!

A

Interviewer: Hello Hamza. Thanks for giving us your time.
Hamza: You're welcome.
Interviewer: Could I start by asking you to tell us about your latest **project**?
Hamza: Sure. We've just raised over a thousand rials for the Red Crescent.
Interviewer: That's a lot of money to raise. What did you raise it for?
Hamza: At school we read about there being famine **victims** in so many parts of the world, so we decided to do something about it.
Interviewer: That's a good idea. What did you do to raise money?
Hamza: Well ...

B



Interviewer: Thanks for talking to us Lucy. How are you?
Lucy: I'm fine thanks.
Interviewer: Now Lucy you've just become very **famous**. Could you tell us why?
Lucy: You're making me feel **shy**. I wouldn't say that I'm famous yet.
Interviewer: Come on Lucy, there's no need to be shy with us! We're all interested to hear what you have to say.
Lucy: OK then. I've just won a million pounds.
Interviewer: Wow, how did you do that?
Lucy: Well ...

C

Interviewer: So Meena, you've become quite a **celebrity** in Manchester lately.
Meena: Well, I suppose so.
Interviewer: Do you mind telling us about it?
Meena: Well, the idea started when we watched a movie all about football. We liked it so much that we decided to form our own girls' football team.
Interviewer: Football? You're interested in football?
Meena: Oh yes. I really enjoy watching my favourite team play every week.
Interviewer: Don't you think it's **strange** for girls to play football?
Meena: No, girls can do anything!
Interviewer: So how did you become interested in football?
Meena: Well ...

Book Quiz !

Welcome to the Book Quiz. The information below has been taken from Units 1–4 of the Classbook. Read the information. Then listen to the tape and find the answers to the five questions in the information. Write only short answers in your exercise book.

A

How's it going? I'm Mustafa and I'm from Oman. I live in Sur with my family. My sister's name is Najma and my friend's name is Zakaria. He's a bit older than me. He lives in Ibra with his family. What's your friend's name?

B

angry beautiful clever
friendly handsome
intelligent jealous kind
long moody nice pale
quiet rude scruffy short
tidy ugly unhappy

C

2. Taha Hussein was born in Al-Minya province, which is in Upper Egypt, on October 28th ,1898. When he was two years old he had an eye disease which made him blind. However, by the age of thirteen, Taha Hussein had memorised the Qur'an which won him a scholarship to university.

D

We looked at the terrible creature which was lying stretched before us. It was as large as a small lioness. Even now in the stillness of death, the huge jaws seemed to be dripping with a blue flame and the small, cruel eyes looked as though they were ringed with fire. I put my hand on the glowing muzzle and when I held them up my own fingers were shining in the darkness.

E

2. A **full stop** has many uses. For example:
   - It is used at the end of a sentence to tell you that a sentence has finished.
   - It is used in abbreviations.
3. A **question mark** is used to show that a question is being asked.
4. An **exclamation mark** helps show a command and strong feelings like anger, and surprise.

F

1. **Copper axes, which were used in Mexico in the 16th century.**
2. **King pearl shells, which were used in Papua New Guinea well into the 20th century.**
3. **Tea, which was used in Russia, Tibet and China until the 1970s.**
4. **Salt, which was very valuable in ancient times because it could be used to preserve food.**
5. **Dog's teeth and whale's teeth, which were used as money in islands round the Pacific.**
6. **Wampum, which were beads made from clam shells and were used by the Native Americans until 1636.**

G

	Distance from the Sun (million km)	Diameter (km)	Average temperature (°C)	Number of moons
Mercury	58	4,880	167	0
Venus	108	12,100	464	0
Earth	150	12,756	15	1
Mars	228	6,790	-65	2
Jupiter	778	143,000	-110	63
Saturn	1,427	120,000	−140	48
Uranus	2,870	51,000	−195	27
Neptune	4,497	48,400	−200	13
Pluto	5,900	2,300	−225	1